United Nations S/PV.8006

Security Council

Seventy-second year

Provisional

8006th meeting
Wednesday, 19 July 2017, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Liu Jieyi	(China)
Members:	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Mr. Fernández Revollo
	Egypt	Mr. Moustafa
	Ethiopia	Mr. Alemu
	France	Mr. Delattre
	Italy	Mr. Cardi
	Japan	Mr. Bessho
	Kazakhstan	Mr. Umarov
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Senegal	Mr. Ndiaye
	Sweden	Mr. Skoog
	Ukraine	Mr. Kyslytsya
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Rycroft
	United States of America	Mrs. Haley
	Uruguay	Mr. Rosselli

Agenda

Peace and security in Africa

Enhancing African capacities in the areas of peace and security

Letter dated 5 July 2017 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2017/574)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

17-21977 (E)

Accessible document Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Peace and security in Africa

Enhancing African capacities in the areas of peace and security

Letter dated 5 July 2017 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2017/574)

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Algeria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Djibouti, Estonia, Germany, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Kenya, Kuwait, Mali, Morocco, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, South Africa, Turkey, Uganda and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite His Excellency Mr. Smail Chergui, African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security, to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite His Excellency Mr. João Pedro Vale de Almeida, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, and Mr. Stephane Ojeda, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross to the United Nations, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2017/574, which contains the text of a letter dated 5 July 2017 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a concept note on the item under consideration.

I now give the floor to the Secretary-General.

The Secretary-General: Let me begin by thanking the Government of China for convening this meeting to focus on enhancing African capacities in the area of peace and security.

In my first days as Secretary-General, I attended the African Union (AU) Summit in Addis Ababa. I wanted to launch a new era of cooperation with the AU, founded on a core conviction. I firmly believe that the international community needs to change the narrative about Africa and to establish a higher platform of cooperation that recognizes Africa's enormous potential and promise.

In the area of peace and security, the African Union and the United Nations have a shared interest in strengthening mechanisms designed to defuse conflicts before they escalate and manage them effectively if they do occur. Enhancing African capacities is essential both in the context of our collective response to international peace and security challenges as well as for the African continent's own self-reliance. That is why, on 19 April, I joined with Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, in signing the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security. Our shared objective is to work together closely on the basis of the principles of mutual respect and comparative advantage in all stages of the conflict cycle and to do so systematically, predictably and strategically. We are committed to institutionalizing our partnership through formal annual consultations between the Heads of the secretariats of both organizations. The Framework includes four key action areas. The first is preventing and mediating conflict and sustaining peace; the second is responding to conflict; the third is addressing the root causes of conflict; and the fourth is continually reviewing and enhancing our partnership. I will address each item in turn.

First, with regard to our joint efforts to prevent and mediate conflict and sustain peace, the Framework's effective implementation requires coordinated and complementary action on the part of both the United Nations and the African Union. We must identify the underlying causes of conflicts, work closely on developing joint analyses, share information and strive to reach a common understanding on issues that can lead to prompt action. They include key areas of ongoing collaboration such as good offices and mediation, electoral matters, human rights and humanitarian assistance.

It is also critical to ensure that we build on our work with subregional mechanisms with the aim of tackling political disputes. In the Gambia, for example, the strong leadership of West African nations, with the

support of the Economic Community of West African States, the African Union and the United Nations, made a significant contribution to reaching a peaceful settlement to a political crisis. And in South Sudan, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the African Union and the United Nations are actively coordinating efforts to achieve a durable peace, including through a joint call for an immediate end to hostilities and a comprehensive and inclusive political dialogue.

Secondly, where responding to conflict is concerned, the African Union and various subregional organizations have deployed tremendous efforts to develop and operationalize the African Standby Force and its Rapid Deployment Capability. Under our new Framework, we look forward to further supporting the strengthening of the Standby Force and to exploring synergies with the United Nations Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System. We must also promote coordinated efforts to confront new asymmetric threats to peace and security such as terrorism and violent extremism.

In Somalia, the United Nations continues to provide logistics, technical and training support to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and to the Somali National Army. Despite many challenges, our cooperation has helped to facilitate concrete results that have yielded crucial progress, such as the recent successful holding of elections. I firmly believe that with predictable funding and enhanced support to AMISOM, together with a coordinated effort to build the Somali army and police force, Al-Shabaab can be defeated, paving the way for a more peaceful future for the people of Somalia and beyond. That is an opportunity we should not miss.

In Mali, we must intensify our collective commitment to further supporting the peace process, with a focus on restoring and extending State authority. I welcome the initiative taken by the Group of Five for the Sahel to create a Joint Force, and I hope that the Security Council will recognize the importance of ensuring that it has a strong mandate and credible funding. In the Lake Chad basin, we must continue to aid the efforts of the African Union and the Multinational Joint Task Force against Boko Haram, as well as other regional initiatives aimed at countering terrorism and violent extremism, ideally with more effective support.

The third pillar of the Joint United Nations-AU Framework focuses on addressing the root causes of conflict and emphasizes our commitment to increasing cooperation related to peacebuilding and the rule of law. Sustaining peace and continued development requires strengthening national institutions in order to address the root causes of conflict.

Fourthly, we should underscore the importance of establishing a process for the continuous review and enhancement of the partnership through regular consultations and coordination. It will include staff exchanges; joint fact-finding missions; strengthened cooperation in promoting national peace infrastructures; the mobilization of funding for AU peace operations that are authorized by the Security Council; and the prevention of violent extremism and illicit flows of weapons and ammunition. The Framework also emphasizes how critical it is to further advance the agenda on women and peace and security.

Enhancing African peace and security capacities requires adequate, timely and predictable financing for AU peace support operations. In May, I submitted a report (S/2017/454), pursuant to resolution 2320 (2016), That welcomed the African Union's decision to fund 25 per cent of AU peace support operations, a commitment in line with the AU's goal of achieving self-reliance and African ownership in the area of peace and security. My report included options for financing those operations and highlighted the importance of compliance and oversight in African Union peace support operations through robust and effective human rights mechanisms and a framework for conduct and discipline. The African Union is working to develop those capacities and the United Nations stands ready to provide the necessary support.

Taken together, the Joint United Nations-AU Framework, the adoption of the African Union Peace Fund and resolution 2320 (2016) represent significant steps in our efforts to reinvigorate cooperation with the African Union. I pledge to continue working with all Council members to further elevate our platform of cooperation for sustainable peace, stability and development throughout the African continent, and I hope their deliberations on this important topic will be fruitful.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank the Secretary-General for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. Chergui.

Mr. Chergui: I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for the opportunity to brief the Security Council on the important subject of enhancing capacities for peace and security in Africa. I would like to express my gratitude to the People's Republic of China for the invitation both on behalf of the African Union Commission and for myself personally. I am pleased to be briefing the Security Council under the presidency of China, which has made such an invaluable contribution to peace and security in Africa. In that regard, I would like to recall the donation of $100 million that China has provided in support to the enhancement of the African Standby Force and the regular contributions it has made in recent years to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), to name only a couple.

I am also grateful for the Secretary-General's comprehensive presentation and would like to pay tribute to his unflinching commitment to peace, security and stability in Africa and his tireless efforts to consolidate and further promote the strategic partnership between the African Union and the United Nations, including in the area of peace and security. I would like to assure him of Africa's full respect and support.

The African Union is an indispensable partner in the promotion of peace and security in Africa. Through those efforts it is making a consistent contribution to the task of addressing global security challenges, which are becoming increasingly complex and transnational — indeed transregional. Over the past decade, the African Union has mandated or authorized the deployment of more than 100,000 uniformed and civilian personnel, many of them to some of the world's most high-risk and volatile environments. That has come at a huge human cost. In that regard, it is worth mentioning that in the past decade, the casualties among African troops in peace support operations have exceeded the total combined casualties experienced by United Nations peacekeeping missions over the past 70 years. This compelling reality demonstrates the commitment of Africans and the African Union to durable peace and stability on the continent.

Despite these sacrifices and commitment, African troops are faced with some of the most challenging situations due to inadequate force enablers and multipliers, as well as financial resource gaps. Last week, the African Union Peace and Security Council declared that AMISOM had successfully achieved its mandate over the past decade, on the basis of a recently concluded lessons-learned study by the African Union Commission. Yet, AMISOM remains the least-resourced Mission in comparison with other deployed regional or international enforcement missions with similar mandates. It is against that background that I would like to make a few proposals for the consideration of the Council on how best to support African capacities in the prevention and effective response to peace and security challenges in Africa.

First, the United Nations and the international community should promote greater strategic cooperation and coherence in the prevention of conflicts in Africa. Conflict prevention remains the most cost-effective conflict management tool, yet it is the least resourced. I would therefore like to recommend to the Council that both the African Union Commission and the United Nations Secretariat establish an institutional approach that will allow for real-time consultations, joint assessments and joint analysis with a view to recommending coherent options to our respective policy organs that would allow for timely prevention of conflicts, including but not limited to preventive diplomacy. The April 2017 Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security represents a good foundation through which to institutionalize that practice. I have already established an internal secretariat within the Peace and Security Department of the African Union to develop an implementation matrix of the Joint Framework, and dedicated staff has been assigned to fulfil this objective.

Some of the concrete priorities we are working on in the area of conflict prevention include enhancing coordination between the African Union and relevant African Union organs and regional economic communities in order to create better synergies between the African Governance Architecture and the African Peace and Security Architecture; strengthening platforms for engagement in early warning issues through regular horizon scanning to the Peace and Security Council; assisting our member States to strengthen their own national peace infrastructure; assisting member States to identify and address local, political and socioeconomic root causes of conflict. In that regard, the African Union has developed the Continental Structural Conflict Prevention Framework, which allows member States to identify their resilience and vulnerabilities and brings various stakeholders together to work on a mitigation strategy. As we speak,

one of our member States is currently going through this exercise.

Other priorities include strengthening efforts to encourage member States to sign, ratify and domesticate African Union instruments related to conflict prevention, and supporting member States in the delimitation, demarcation and reaffirmation of African borders with the objective of preventing conflict and of transforming borders from barriers to bridges.

Secondly, the enhancement of the operational readiness of the African Standby Force must be fully supported. The African Union and its regional standby forces have put in tremendous efforts to develop and operationalize the African Standby Force and its Rapid Deployment Capability as one of its conflict management tools, as enshrined in the African Peace and Security Architecture. That was evidenced by the declaration of full operational capability of the Force in January 2016 by the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security. Despite this historic achievement, the Ministers of Defence of African Union member States further recognized that there are challenges ahead, especially with the mandating process, funding and logistics support and therefore called for further strengthening of the ASF. The enhancement process will be achieved within the framework of the Maputo Five-year Strategic Workplan on the African Standby Force, which has been finalized. As I speak, a high-level technical team is undertaking the verification of the capabilities of the five brigades of the African Standby Force. I will encourage Council members and partners to support the implementation of the African Standby Force Strategic Workplan. We look forward to closely working with the new Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Vladimir Ivanovich Voronkov.

Thirdly, the spread of violent extremism remains a source of concern. The recent authorization of regional coalitions such as the Multinational Joint Task Force against Boko Haram and the Group of Five for the Sahel force are innovative ways through which the African Union and its member States are responding to the prevalence of terrorist activities within the framework of the African Union Peace and Security Architecture. Yet, prolonged conflicts and governance deficits provide fertile grounds for a cycle of radicalization and extremism.

Therefore, the African Union and United Nations must work together to resolve seemingly intractable conflicts by building resilience through sustainable post-conflict reconstruction and development initiatives. This entails supporting the African Union's efforts in countering violent extremism through greater investment in political, human rights, humanitarian and developmental approaches. In addition, the African Union Counter-terrorism Fund, as well as activities of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism, the Nouakchott and Djibouti processes are important coordination platforms through which the African Union can be supported in the fight against terrorism. Here, I should like to reiterate our readiness to work with the new Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Vladimir Ivanovich Voronkov.

Fourthly, the financing of peace support operations remains a perennial issue of discussion, which we hope can be resolved soon. In that respect, I am pleased to note that the implementation of the Kigali Summit decision on financing is now under way. We are convinced that the efforts that we have invested in the African Union since 2001 to realize alternative sources of funding will be achieved. As a way of enhancing our accountability measures, the African Union Commission has requested that the United Nations and the European Union nominate representatives to the governance structure of the Peace Fund. Yet, it is clear that Africa will not be able to fund peace initiatives on its own. Therefore, the prospects of predictable and sustainable funding for addressing peace and security challenges, including through the utilization of United Nations assessed contributions remains a common African position. We therefore look forward to further deliberation and possible decision by the Council, in September 2017, on the dedicated support from the United Nations to all Council-mandated African peace support operations.

In conclusion, Council members will agree with me that the new leaderships of the African Union Commission and the United Nations are determined to promote greater synergy between peace, security and development. Both organizations have set mutually reinforcing and ambitious, but not insurmountable, strategic priorities, as reflected in Agenda 2063 and Vision 2030 respectively. We continue to count on the political leadership and guidance of our member States, especially in the Council, in the realization of our institutional mandates. Without the political cooperation and support of the Council, the attainment

of collective security within Africa and beyond will be difficult to achieve.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now call on the Minister for Foreign Affairs Senegal and Senegalese Abroad.

Mr. Ndiaye (Senegal) (*spoke in French*): First of all, I would like to congratulate you personally, Mr. President, as well as the Chinese Government, on your accession of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of July. I also welcome the organization of this debate, which your country, the People's Republic of China, has decided to devote to the theme "Enhancing African capacities in the areas of peace and security". Senegal welcomes the prominent role played by China and its contribution to building peace and security in the world, especially in Africa. This is an issue to which Senegal attaches great importance, and it was highlighted in the discussions during the debate (see S/PV.7816) that Senegal organized last November on the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union.

Allow me as well to express my gratitude for the important briefing by Secretary-General António Guterres, to whom we reiterate our support for his firm determination to work for the promotion of peace and security in the world, in particular in Africa, and, above all, for the stress that he has placed on prevention issues, which are very important questions. We also thank the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, His Excellency Mr. Ismail Chergui, for his important briefing, which has also shed light on our debate.

Today's debate is certainly part of a move to maximize the enormous potential of the African Union and the African regional economic communities in the area of peace and security, a potential that, if used wisely, could make it possible to effectively tackle the immense challenges that the continent faces in this sphere. Senegal is convinced of the importance of a strategic partnership in the efforts aimed at maintaining peace and security in Africa. We therefore believe that strengthening African capabilities in this area must be approached as part of the current discussions on how to intensify the cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union and the continent's regional economic communities. From that point of view, my delegation welcomes the positive trend to strengthen partnerships in the area of peace and security between the two organizations.

In that regard, the visit of Secretary-General Guterres to African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa this past January and the visit made by the Chair of the African Union Commission, Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, to United Nations Headquarters in New York in April 2017, in the framework of the first United Nations-African Union annual conference, reflects a renewed dynamic that must be welcomed. It was during that periodic meeting that the joint Framework for a Strengthened Partnership in the Peace and Security was signed.

With the experience of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, under African leadership, deployed by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, or of the African Union Mission in Somalia, to just mention a few, the African Union and its regional organizations were able to show their ability to provide front-line responses to the conflicts erupting on the continent.

At the subregional level, the tangible results of operations carried out by ECOWAS in resolving several crisis, namely, with the deployment of its Ceasefire Monitoring Group, in numerous theatres of operations, including in Liberia at the time, as well as its missions in Guinea-Bissau and recently its mission in The Gambia, reflect the crucial role that African subregional organizations can play in promoting peace on the continent. However, the lessons learned, specifically in the transition from African Union peace operations towards United Nations peacekeeping operations, shows the limits that African organizations have from the point of view of logistics, operations and capabilities. To that we must add the complexity of the new challenges within the area of peace and security, in particular in Africa, with the increase in violent extremism, the proliferation of terrorist groups, which feed on all kinds of criminal activities, while using sophisticated tools and techniques, not to mention cybercrime, which threatens both the sovereignty of States and the safety of its populations.

With more than 20,000 registered attacks a year in Africa, cybersecurity is one of the major challenges that has sorely tested our capabilities to tackle the

artful and sophisticated tactics of its perpetrators. Mindful of the seriousness of the problem, Senegal and Spain co-organized in December 2016 an Arria Formula meeting on the subject with the participation of the business community, legal experts and national and international security agencies.

Maritime security is another major challenge that must command the Council's attention — an issue that was in fact widely discussed in October 2016 in Lomé at the first African Union Summit devoted to the topic, after which the Charter on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa was adopted. It will be included in the African Union's 2050 Integrated Maritime Strategy.

As we can see with the several initiatives under way, the African States concerned have, fortunately, strengthened their mobilization and their cooperation to tackle these threats to peace and security despite their very limited capabilities. I would also like to welcome, by way of example, the efforts of the countries that participated in the Joint Multinational Force, which made it possible to reduce the operational means and the advance of Boko Haram.

I also welcome efforts at inter-African coordination, supported by the relevant United Nations agencies, in particular the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, to develop holistic and strategic approaches to better tackle threats, including terrorist threats, and to favour the development of synergies between the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel, on the one hand, and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa, on the other, in particular in implementing the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel. I would also like to mention the establishment of the Group of Five States for the Sahel Joint Force, whose deployment was welcome by the Security Council through resolution 2359 (2017).

Beyond those very commendable efforts, we must nevertheless strengthen international mobilization and adopt an approach that would favour an analysis of the root causes of conflicts. In that way, we can forever avert violence and wars, which seriously jeopardize the future of many African countries. That is the spirit behind the Dakar International Forum on Peace and Security in Africa, which Mr. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal, committed to continue since it was first organized in 2014. The first three Forums experienced great international success, bringing together approximately 500 high-level participants from around the globe. That provided an opportunity for a fruitful exchange and to better identify the security and strategic challenges faced by Africa. It also made it possible to bring out new approaches in defence, security and development policies and to strengthen African partnerships with international authorities.

I would like to invite you, Mr. President, and Secretary-General Guterres to the fourth Forum, planned for Dakar on 13 and 14 November, which will be devoted to the new strategic challenges of the continent. The theme will be entitled "Current security challenges in Africa — towards integrated solutions". It goes without saying that strengthening African capabilities in the area of peace and security will be at the heart of the discussions. The establishment of the African Union Peace and Security Architecture is an expression of the African Union's desire to tackle head-on issues that are linked to peace and security on the continent despite the number of challenges and the scope of the difficulties.

In that regard, I would like personally to welcome the role of Mr. Chergui, African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security, in this initiative. We also note the adoption of the African Peace and Security Architecture road map for the period 2016-2020, which aims, among other things, to prevent and to lift obstacles to the full functionality of the Peace and Security Architecture, something we should work towards in order to qualitatively strengthen the capabilities of the African Union in the area of peace and security. Strengthening the current partnership with the United Nations at the strategic and operational levels should allow the African Union to acquire the appropriate tools for effective action given the evolving security challenges that Africa faces, and which require the taking on board of the dimension of sustaining peace, in accordance with the spirit of the idential resolutions on peacebuilding adopted in 2016 by the General Assembly and the Security Council (respectively, resolution 70/262 and resolution 2282 (2016)).

At a time when the African Union is assuming greater responsibility in the area of peace and security on the continent — which, let us remember, hosts 10 of the 16 United Nations peacekeeping operations — it is disturbing to note that the lack of predictable and sustainable financing limits the

potential of the pan-African organization in this area. My delegation welcomes the efforts carried out thus far in the search for predictable, sustainable and flexible financing mechanisms for African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by the Security Council. The adoption, in November 2016 during Senegal's presidency of the Council, of resolution 2320 (2016) ushered in an important stage for real prospects to deepen our discussion on the best way of ensuring sustainable and predictable financing for African Union peace operations.

The four financing options identified by the Secretary-General in his report (S/2017/454) on the possible modalities to authorize African Union peace operations and the provision of support to those operations are robust, realistic and could help the Council take appropriate measures in this area. We therefore hope that the Council will demonstrate all of the political will required to appropriately address this important issue, by working collectively in a constructive spirit to adopt a substantive draft resolution that establishes the principle that peacekeeping operations mandated or authorized by the African Union and with the consent of the Security Council must be financed through assessed contributions from the United Nations budget, with decisions on the funding of specific missions to be undertaken made on a case by case basis.

Mr. Kyslytsya (Ukraine): I would like to express our gratitude to you, Sir, for having convened today's open debate. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General and the African Union (AU) Commissioner for Peace and Security, who provided us with an update on strengthening the United Nations-African Union partnership.

Ukraine aligns itself with the statement to be delivered later today on behalf of the European Union (EU) and wishes to make several remarks in its national capacity.

As we gather here today, peace remains as elusive a goal as it has been throughout human history. Despite the universal appeal for peace and the declared commitment of States to uphold it, wars and armed conflicts remain a recurring feature of today's world affairs. Their causes may be different — some are internal in nature, some are instigated and sustained from outside — but their consequences are similarly horrible.

It is true that the long overdue reform of our Organization is yet to be accomplished in order to maintain its once unquestionable credit of trust and to restore its ability to take prompt preventive measures. As a Chinese philosopher once said, it does not matter how slowly you go so long as you do not stop. I do not dare challenge that philosophy. Nevertheless, I insist that, in matters of preventing conflicts and gross violations of human rights, the speed of United Nations action is crucial. In 1994, in Rwanda, the United Nations failed to act promptly to prevent genocide. Twenty years later, in Ukraine, the United Nations, the Security Council and the Secretary-General took no action to stop the occupation of Crimea and the military aggression by Russia.

Regional organizations remain one of the most efficient mechanisms that are employed swiftly in response to full-scale conflict or a situation where the civilian population is in danger. Therefore, the United Nations should redouble its efforts to enhance strategic partnerships with them, while building up joint planning and supporting collaboration.

The African Union has made tremendous progress in developing its peace support capabilities since the deployment of its mission in Burundi back in 2003. Today it acts as the first responder to crises in Africa, with the authorization of the Security Council. As an observer to the African Union, Ukraine follows closely the development of the Union's peace support potential and shares the view of the Secretary-General that the world can greatly benefit from African wisdom, African ideas and African solutions. As a country associated with the European Union, we also support the approach of exploring possibilities for trilateral United Nations-EU-AU cooperation in order to ensure effective and sustaining peacebuilding assistance in Africa. The upcoming fifth African Union-EU summit in November will provide an important opportunity in that respect. It is also in that light that Ukraine decided to co-sponsor this year's General Assembly resolution 71/254, on cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union.

Last month, in this very Chamber, Council members expressed a variety of views on ways to enhance United Nations-AU cooperation (see S/PV.7971). At the same time, there was a common understanding that both organizations have to work in concert while using their competitive advantages. We believe that, given the complex nature of threats to international peace and security on the continent, supporting the full operationalization of the African Peace and Security

Architecture should be seen as a priority for the African Union. At the same time, we see a need to provide adequate support in logistics and funding for peace and security operations in Africa on a sustainable basis.

The African Union-United Nations mission in Darfur has become one of the vivid examples of how the two organizations can be partners in the design and implementation of peacekeeping operations. The African commitment and United Nations resources and experience allowed the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur to implement its mandate effectively, thereby paving the way to transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding in the region.

No less important is the African engagement in promoting the political process in Darfur. We welcome African Union efforts to meaningfully engage all parties in the Sudan in the peace process. As Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005), concerning the Sudan, Ukraine fosters further collaboration and dialogue between the Government of the Sudan and the United Nations. In May, the Chair and Committee members visited Khartoum and Darfur, where they received first-hand accounts of the state of implementation of the measures imposed by the relevant Security Council resolutions. The visit helped to develop a number of recommendations intended to review the sanctions regime in order to reflect the needs and demands of the current situation.

In the Horn of Africa, a strong relationship between the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia, the United Nations Support Office in Somalia and the African Union Mission in Somalia, as well as the Somali security forces, helped to significantly reduce terrorist activity and the number of recruits to Al-Shabaab, which, however, continues to constitute a threat to peace and security in the region.

A similar approach and level of coordination with the international community is desperately required in Burundi. Without meaningful cooperation with the United Nations, the African Union and other international community actors, the road to a political settlement of the crisis will be even longer and, most likely, fraught with additional complications and dangers. While resolution 2303 (2016) has yet to produce a breakthrough, we call on Burundi to accept the deployment of the African Union human rights observers and military experts with increased human rights monitoring capacity and police components.

Developments in the Central African Republic are a cause for concern. As Chair of the Sanctions Committee on the Central African Republic, Ukraine is especially worried about the continuing presence and violent activity of armed groups. We are ready to continue our practical contribution to support all peace and reconciliation efforts. We recognize the important role of the African Union in that process and welcome the African Union's initiative on peace and reconciliation in the Central African Republic.

As an active troop and capabilities contributor to United Nations missions in Africa for many years, Ukraine is proud to be a part of success stories on the continent. We welcome Côte d'Ivoire being entrusted by the United Nations membership to serve on the Security Council as an elected member with vast experience in peacebuilding and in overcoming past conflict. The United Nations Mission in Liberia is another vivid example of the United Nations positive peacekeeping and stabilization efforts. We must draw from positive transitions from war to peace in order to reinforce the United Nations and regional peace support capacities.

Yesterday, the world marked Nelson Mandela International Day. He was a person who devoted his life to the service of humankind in Africa. In that light, it is particularly encouraging that efforts to put in place effective mechanisms for human rights protection have become an indispensable element of the African Union's activities and policies. Human rights and democracy are two prerequisites that could bring about lasting peace and security on the African continent.

Mr. Cardi (Italy): Let me first commend you, Sir, for convening this meeting on such an important theme with the appropriate timing and format. As your concept note (S/2017/574, annex) indicates, there is a continuity of discussions and relevant documents on the issue, and focus should now be placed on implementation. I also wish to thank the Secretary-General and Commissioner Chergui for their briefings.

Today's topic is strategic in relation to the stabilization of the African continent and beyond. As a Mediterranean country with a historical relationship with Africa, Italy is acutely aware of the need to enhance African capacities in the areas of peace and security. In the context of the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, signed on 19 April, the Secretary-General spoke of the mechanisms to finance African Union

peace operations, and the report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on the same subject marked the outset of a strategic partnership between the two organizations.

The African Union has taken on important responsibilities in recent years and shown the willingness to take on more. We support African ambitions with regard to the development of the African Union Peace and Security Architecture, the African Union Peace Fund and the African Standby Force and its rapid-deployment capability.

African Union peace operations often have comparative advantages. In that respect, Italy supports the mechanism set out in the Secretary-General's report (S/2017/454) for joint planning and mandating African Union peace operations. The mechanism provides for African ownership, while preserving the prerogatives of the Security Council. The African Union-United Nations cooperation has been extensively tested in the African Union Mission in Somalia and in the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur.

I also recall the potential of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel, referred to by the Minister of Senegal, the revitalization of which we deem essential for the entire region, and the establishment of the Group of Five for the Sahel force to combat terrorism, which, in our view, can effectively cooperate with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali and the European Union missions deployed in the region. We underscore once again the importance of that innovative operation and of the need for the Council to ensure that it receives all the necessary support in our joint endeavour against violent extremism in the region. In that regard, I also underscore that the recently established unified command of the European Union missions in Somalia, the Central African Republic and Mali reinforces the European Union's strategic role as a coordination partner to the United Nations, the African Union and the African forces.

In that respect, I would like to align myself with the statement to be delivered by the observer of the European Union.

Enhanced strategic cooperation with the African Union is the main way towards smart and cost-effectiv peace operations. We welcome the commitment undertaken by the African Union Summit in July 2016 to contribute 25 per cent of the cost of African Union peace operations by 2020 and encourage the African partners under the leadership of Mr. Kaberuka to finalize its operative arrangements. We believe that it is important to note that that commitment would significantly increase the financial contribution of Africa to peace operations.

The various options to provide financial support envisaged in the report of the Secretary-General can be chosen on a case-by-case basis. I would like to recall that, already in 2008, the report (see S/2008/813) prepared by the panel of experts chaired by former Prime Minister Romano Prodi called for predictable and sustainable financial support to United Nations-approved African Union peacekeeping missions. We are therefore in favour of exploring the use of assessed contributions, provided that the appropriate set of requirements in terms of troop quality, training, equipment and high-accountability standards is met.

Predictability as to financing is essential but not the exclusive way to strengthen African capabilities. Equipment, technological innovation and, first and foremost, training and institution-building are crucial to enhancing the effectiveness of African efforts to prevent and manage conflicts and to build peace. Italy stands ready to strengthen its engagement in capacity-building with regard to police and military units in African Union missions, as it is already doing through many centres, such as the Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units in Vicenza, and contribute to devising new training skills tailored to African needs.

The interconnected nature of current threats to peace and stability is evident in Africa more than in other areas of the world. Terrorist organizations, transnational organized crime, human trafficking, climate change and food insecurity are all common elements in most of the crises that we are witnessing in the continent. Therefore, given the horizontal and evolving nature of the threats, it is clear that the United Nations cannot and should not tackle them on its own. A renewed and enhanced partnership with regional and subregional organizations based on Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations and on the principle of subsidiarity is essential. Thanks to the coordinated action of subregional organizations, developments in some parts of the African continent are, in our view, a clear indicator of the potential of that approach.

In the longer-term, tackling the root causes of African instability is the only sustainable solution.

Italy will continue and intensify its efforts bilaterally within the European Union and the United Nations, including the Security Council, to help Africa embark upon a path of sustainable economic growth. We will also continue to provide specific mediation expertise through Italian non-governmental entities, as we are doing in the Central African Republic.

In conclusion, so as to achieve those ambitious and important goals, the Security Council has to show its readiness in embracing the innovative spirit that the terms of the relationship with Africa require today. Ultimately, what is at stake is the idea itself of constructive multilateralism, which we as members of the United Nations and of the Council should uphold and advance by showing the necessary political leadership.

Mr. Rycroft (United Kingdom): I thank the Secretary-General and Commissioner Chergui for their positive and constructive briefings this morning. It was also a pleasure to hear the interventions of the Foreign Minister of Senegal and the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, who reminded us that yesterday was Nelson Mandela Day. He would have turned 99 yesterday. I therefore wanted to begin with a quote from him from his book *Long Walk to Freedom*. He wrote,

> "Man's goodness is a flame that can be hidden but never extinguished".

Man's goodness is a flame that can be hidden but never extinguished, and that flame does remain hidden for far too many people across the continent of Africa. For the people of the Kasai in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the people of South Sudan, that flame may appear almost extinguished and lost among the shadows of instability and conflict. But although the flame grows dim in parts of the continent, Mandela was right. It cannot be extinguished. We know that from the great strides made by countries like Côte d'Ivoire, which is moving away from years of war and now is looking ahead towards decades of peace. We see it in progress towards democracy like the elections in Somalia in February, where women won nearly a quarter of the parliamentary seats. That was a vital step towards one-person-one-vote elections. And we see that flame burn brightly in the work of organizations such as the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States, which are helping African countries find common cause to overcome common concerns. The Council has a vital role to play in fostering that flame. To do so, I would like to propose three particular things that I think we need to do.

First, we must all work together — the United Nations, the Council and the countries and organizations of Africa — to address the root causes of conflict. We spend too much time and money responding to crises, rather than preventing them. That is why the United Kingdom so strongly supports the Secretary-General and his sustaining peace agena and his increased focus on conflict prevention. For that agenda to succeed, the United Nations needs to diversify the way that it engages using development cooperation proactively to build peace and supporting more diplomacy, including mediation. As the Economic Community of West African States mediation in The Gambia showed, that means more cooperation with regional actors that have the right to experience and influence to deliver results on the ground. The Council and our colleagues in the African Union must demonstrate unambiguously to those who perpetuate conflict that there are severe political and economic consequences for doing so.

Secondly, we must all be ready to respond when conflict does occur. Effective and efficient United Nations peacekeeping is one of our strongest assets to do so, and it is a shared asset. African nations provide over half of the peacekeepers deployed to African missions. I want to pay tribute to all of them for their service, so often in dangerous circumstances. The United Kingdom is committed to improving the planning of peacekeeping missions, the quality and quantity of pledges of troops and equipment and the performance of missions and troops on the ground. But that will count for little if we do not have the trust of those we seek to protect. That means, among other things, eradicating the corrosive spectre of sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeepers. We must implement fully the framework for action and resolution 2272 (2016) to uphold and enforce the highest standards of conflict — zero tolerance must mean zero tolerance. In parallel, we need more women working in missions, out in the field, reassuring local populations, gathering vital intelligence and contributing to more effective operations.

Thirdly, we need to strengthen and deepen our existing partnerships. The United Nations and African Union relationship is critical for peace and security in Africa. As we have seen in Somalia, Mali and Central African Republic, that relationship makes such a difference to those most in need. We therefore applaud

the work to make those joint efforts more systematic, and we are reassured that the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security will lead to better cooperation and coordination. There are many issues we should address to realize fully the corporation envisaged in resolution 2320 (2016) — agreeing on mechanisms and processesl sharing standards and procedures, including on human rights, accountability and transparency; and establishing, as the Secretary-General reminded us again today, a source of sustainable and predictable financing for African peace support operations. We welcome the work that the United Nations has done with the African Union so far on that agenda, and we now need to see that work continue. I look forward to our visit as a Security Council to Addis Ababa in September.

There is a lot more to do, but we cannot be deterred in our efforts to support peace and security in Africa. I would like to conclude by returning to the words of the late Nelson Mandela:

> "Do not look the other way. Do not hesitate. Recognize that the world is hungry for actions, not words. Act with courage and vision."

Let us all act in that spirit.

Mr. Rosselli (Uruguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): I join previous speakers in congratulating the Chinese presidency for organizing this debate, as well as for the concept note (S/2017/574,annex), which was circulated in a timely manner. I would like to particularly thank the Secretary-General for his statement, his detailed report (S/2017/454) and his emphasis on prevention as a central part of peacekeeping. I am also grateful for the briefing by Mr. Smail Chergui.

Uruguay believes that, as part of enhancing African capabilities in peace and security, cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations is a fundamental aspect. Such organizations are playing a greater role in building global peace and security. In the particular case of Africa, cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union is crucial and urgent, given the existence of conflicts in very complex contexts, where there are asymmetrical threats, the spread of violent extremism and terrorism and, where in many cases, they must tackle humanitarian crises and massive human rights violations.

In that respect, Uruguay values the efforts that the African Union is putting forth with vigour and enthusiasm to achieve peace and development in Africa, playing a positive role in peaceful conflict resolution. For that reason, we encourage the African Union to continue to contribute constructively to addressing the different conflicts on the continent, including the question of Western Sahara, the last remaining vestige of the decolonization process still unresolved in Africa, and where one of our oldest peacekeeping missions is deployed in Africa — the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara.

The willingness of both organizations to further deepen their strategic alliance when it comes to peace and security has been reflected in several documents, among them resolution 2320 (2016) and the road map signed on 19 April, which the Secretary-General described in detail a few minutes ago. We would also like to acknowledge the report of the Secretary-General issued in May (S/2017/454) on options for authorizing and resourcing African Union peace support operations. The greatest challenge lies in the practical implementation of all of those documents.

Uruguay highlights the importance of Africa for peacekeeping, and vice versa. The statistics are clear: out of 16 peacekeeping operations, nine are deployed in Africa, and those missions include more than 80 per cent of all of uniformed personnel and approved financial resources. Out of the 30 main countries that provide uniformed personnel to the United Nations peacekeeping operations, 19 of them are African States. As was pointed out a few minutes ago by Ambassador Rycroft, 50 per cent of the entire uniformed personnel in charge of a peacekeeping come from member States of the African Union. We also acknowledge that the peacekeeping personnel at the United Nation is not always in the best position to respond to a crisis in Africa, especially when there is no peace to maintain or when armed groups threaten civilians. But it is also reality that given such cases, the African Union itself does not have sufficient capacity to respond to those situations.

With regard to African Union peace support operations, I would like to underscore three factors that we believe to be decisive in ensuring that the partnership with the United Nations achieve its full potential: planning and establishing mandates, financing African Union operations and developing personnel capabilities.

First, with regard to the process for planning and establishing the mandates of joint African Union-United Nations peace support missions authorized by Security Council, Uruguay believes that close cooperation is essential with a view to ensuring effectiveness and efficiency. It is key to continue with efforts aimed at improving the joint efforts of the organizations throughout the entire life cycle of a mission, which includes, among other things, the initial assessment of the crisis and the joint strategic assessment, the launch of the mission and joint assessments of compliance with the mandate and accountability.

Secondly, with regard to financing African Union peace support operations, we have observed that a lack of financing and predictable and sustainable support for such operations has undermined the capability of the African Union to take action and respond to a crisis situation. Uruguay believes that the different financing models presented in the report of the Secretary-General issued in May offer viable alternatives to the use of voluntary contributions through trust funds. Therefore, we encourage the Secretariat to continue working on the basis of those options in close consultation with Member States. It is also important to point out that the financial support of the United Nations would be an additional contribution to the financing that the peace operations will receive from the African Union Peace Fund.

Thirdly, with regard to developing the capabilities of African Union personnel deployed in peace support operations, as a country that has spent many years participating actively in peacekeeping operations, Uruguay attaches particular importance to the responsibility of troop- and police-contributing countries. They are the ones that carry out actions on the ground and must implement the mandates of the operations. In that context, we highlight that any force outside the United Nations that is authorized by the Security Council, including an African Union peace support operation, must comply with the same requirements as United Nations peacekeeping personnel in terms of capabilities, performance, conduct, discipline and accountability. We point out that the African Union is making efforts to finalize its frameworks on human rights and for compliance with conduct and discipline standards in order to ensure that its peace support operations are conducted in full compliance with international human rights and international humanitarian law standards, as well as to ensure monitoring and accountability.

Lastly, I would like to recognize the different efforts undertaken by the African Union in the area of facilitation and conflict mediation— for example, in South Sudan and in the Central African Republic. We trust that an even closer alliance with the United Nations would also contribute to enhancing the effectiveness of such tasks.

Mr. Iliichev (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We thank you, Mr. President, for having convened today's timely meeting. We also thank Secretary-General António Guterres and the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, Mr. Smail Chergui, for their detailed briefings.

We welcome the efforts of our African partners in the resolution of conflicts on the continent. We note the marked intensification of the African Union's activities and that of subregional organizations in this area, including through the establishment of a Peace and Security Architecture for the continent. We must also note the African Union's ambitious plan to put an end to armed conflicts on the continent by 2020.

We are confident that, in order to effectively overcome crisis situations in Africa, we need an approach that, first and foremost, brings together Africans, gives them the leading role in defining the path to the settlement of conflicts on their continent and ensures effective support for those efforts by the international community. We support an approach that seeks African solutions to African problems. We advocate close cooperation among the United Nations, African organizations and individual States with the aim of developing a coordinated approach to dealing with conflict situations in Africa on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations, the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions and while observing the basic principles of peacekeeping. At the same time, Russia's principled position is that any settlement should be carried out using political methods, based on national dialogue and the settlement of the root causes of conflicts.

We understand the concerns of our African partners about the provision of adequate resources for African peacekeeping operations. We must increase the predictability, reliability and flexibility of the financing for African operations and joint missions. In principle, we do not object to considering the possibility

of expanding United Nations participation in such missions, and we are ready to engage in constructive dialogue in that regard. At the same time, we believe that, regardless of the option we choose, it is extremely important that we maintain the current United Nations system of reviewing and approving the corresponding budgetary requests, ensure transparency and accountability in the allocation and use of funds, and provide for the participation of United Nations personnel in all stages of the planning and implementation of the designated tasks.

We believe that one of the reasons for the growing instability on the African continent is the attempts to engage in political engineering in a number of States in the Middle East and North Africa. We regret that the accumulated experiences of the African Union in Libya and Côte d'Ivoire are simply being ignored. Inter-State relations have been unequal and disrespectful, based on ideological dogmas, and international law has been ignored, which have resulted in clumsy interference in the internal affairs of Africans and in the deterioration of State structures, the formation of new sources of instability, and the outbreak of terrorist groups, including the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). ISIL's positions in Libya have been strengthened and militants have penetrated further to the south in Mali, the Niger and Chad, thereby creating a springboard for the creation of new terrorist threats in the Sahelo-Saharan region. There has been a clear trend of cooperation between ISIL and local terrorist groups, such as Boko Haram and Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb.

The increasing cooperation of ISIL with Boko Haram is of particular concern. In the border areas of the Group of Five for the Sahel countries, we have seen the Al Mourabitoun group increase its activity with a view to bringing together all the Islamic structures in Mali, the Niger and Mauritania. In Somalia, under the banner of Al-Qaida, the activities of the terrorist group Al-Shabaab have noticeably increased.

Terrorists obtain material support through the criminal organizations they control, which traffic in drugs and weapons, organize channels of illegal immigration and take hostages. An essential source of income for terrorists remains the illegal trade in oil and oil products. We have also seen a strengthening in the cross-border link between terrorists and criminals, which is essentially a regional system of regeneration, capacity-building, funding and ideological influence in the sphere of international terrorism.

Russia has consistently advocated the pooling of international efforts, which would allow us to develop concerted approaches to countering the terrorist threat on the African continent with an emphasis on assisting countries in the region in strengthening their anti-terrorist efforts. We support United Nations initiatives aimed at creating more favourable conditions for the provision of specialized technical assistance and capacity-building for African countries. We are ready to share with our African partners our counter-terrorism experience and to implement projects to increase the potential of African countries in their struggle against terrorism and extremism.

With regard to the activities of terrorist organizations in the region, Russian universities are working to train African law enforcement personnel and peacekeepers. Every year, the educational institutions of the Russian Ministry of the Interior train up to 80 peacekeepers and approximately 150 African police officers through higher education programmes, as well as approximately 300 individuals through short-term professional development courses.

We regret the most recent attempt of the delegation of Ukraine to draw the Security Council's attention away from the issue we are currently discussing.

Mr. Umarov (Kazakhstan): Kazakhstan expresses its appreciation to the presidency of China for convening this debate, as well as to Secretary-General António Guterres and the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, Ambassador Smail Chergui, for their thoughtful and insightful briefings on enhancing African capacities in the areas of peace and security.

The first United Nations-African Union annual conference, which was held on 19 April and resulted in the Joint Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, marks a new phase of enhanced strategic partnership between the two organizations. We need to maintain that momentum with a view to accelerating and increasing its operationalization and implementation. My delegation therefore would like to make the following observations.

First, we should prioritize conflict prevention and mediation by improving the efficiency of the United Nations-African Union preventive diplomacy with more coordinated actions, early warning, rapid response and

what the Secretary-General calls a whole new approach that shifts our focus to preventing conflicts rather than the current trend of spending more time and resources resolving them. That characterized the Secretary-General's new agenda for peace, which also strives to fast forward the Agenda 2063, including the Silence the Guns by 2020 project.

Secondly, our response to crises remains fragmented despite the fact that the causes of crises are deeply interlinked. Therefore, it is necessary to elaborate a comprehensive approach that connects security, humanitarian and development efforts, all with a greater emphasis and additional financial outlays on peacebuilding measures. Currently, we spend more than $7 billion on peacekeeping and less than $1 billion on laying the foundations for long-term sustainable peace by addressing the root causes of tensions and instability. Therefore, we must invest more in sustainable development, building State institutions and consolidating constitutions, democracy-building, rule of law, good governance and security sector reforms.

Equally important are investments in human development, including education, health, job creation, employment and social services. We must simultaneously boost infrastructure development in order to foster trade and agriculture, as well as water, food and energy security. Kazakhstan has invested in the problems of technical assistance and capacity-building through the Ministries for Foreign Affairs of 45 African States. Looking to the future, we intend to stay engaged in that sphere. It is critical to focus on climate mitigation, disaster-risk reduction and building resilience, because only that will promote intra-African economic growth and result in greater and more vibrant regional integration and progress. Implementing the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel, which features a dual track of conflict prevention and peacebuilding, is a good model for achieving stability and development in other conflict zones. It is also important to ensure that women and youth are fully integrated into all activities at every stage related to peace and security. It is also important that they are at the negotiating table at the highest levels.

Thirdly, the United Nations should be encouraged to leverage the comparative advantages of regional and subregional organizations, as well as groups of neighbouring countries, which possess a better understanding of the dynamics and root causes of conflicts, and mobilize respective local resources. The AU's peace operations have proven to be very effective owing to the familiarity of African soldiers with their own terrain and local conditions, as well as the tactics of armed groups. Good examples of that are the work of the AU-United Nations hybrid missions and the creation of regional forces, such as the Multinational Joint Task Force, which was able to effectively combat Boko Haram, as well as the Group of Five for the Sahel Joint Force.

Likewise, Africa should be part of our global counter-terrorism multilateral action. However, that means that the mandates of our multidimensional hybrid missions must be realistic and achievable. At the same time, they must address asymmetrical conflicts with ongoing monitoring and evaluation. That calls for sufficient financial and capacity-building support to AU. Otherwise, the ability to deliver will not match the expected aspirations. The United Nations and the international community should provide equipment, resources, technical support and training and establish sustainable and predictable financing mechanisms for AU peace operations, in accordance with resolution 2320 (2016). The various options for a jointly developed budget, as identified in the Secretary-General's report of 26 May (S/2017/454), should be explored for optimal results. We also believe that the Peace Fund will be a robust mechanism for cooperation and partnership. We look forward to discussing the matter further during our planned visit to Addis Ababa in September for the annual consultations with the AU Peace and Security Council.

As an observer to the African Union, Kazakhstan remains committed to further strengthening the capacity of the AU and to helping African countries fulfil their vision for peace, progress and prosperity. We need to invest now because as Africa develops, it will shape global events in the future. It is already recognized to be the driver of the world economy in the twenty-first century.

Mr. Bessho (Japan): I would like to thank the Secretary-General and His Excellency Mr. Smail Chergui, Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, for their attendance and excellent briefings.

Africa is a continent of hope. Today we are pleased to witness great strides in economic growth and stability in many African countries, which are grounded in national ownership. Those strides have

come from undertaking efforts to diversify economies towards self-sustaining growth and enhance the capacities of individuals and institutions. Africa's bright future, however, is predicated on the development of peaceful societies throughout continent that are free from conflict, poverty and violent extremism. The key to unlocking that future is a combination of African ownership and international partnership. More concretely, it entails responding not only to immediate crises, such as conflict and famine, but also to the root causes of conflict. Resilient national, regional and local institutions are essential to empowering Africa's greatest resource, which is its people.

One year ago, Japan, as the President of the Council, organized an open debate on peacebuilding in Africa (see S/PV.7750). Council members were united on the importance of African ownership and addressing the root causes of conflict, as well as the need to cooperate with regional and subregional organizations, which were included in a presidential statement (S/PRST/2016/12). We commend China for providing an opportunity to reaffirm the importance of those areas for Africa's peace and stability.

The African Union (AU) is a prime example of African ownership being used to achieve political and economic integration, as well as prevent and resolve conflicts, based on its solidarity and shared values. The AU has acquired diverse capacities for regional action on matters pertaining to international peace and security, including mediation, such as regional efforts for the peaceful transition in The Gambia, peace support operations, such as the African Union Mission in Somalia, institution-building, such as security sector reform, as well as peacebuilding in order to address the root causes of conflict. In South Sudan, the AU, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and regional countries are actively engaged, and the United Nations is also working together to change the situation for the better. The United Nations is capable of expanding its dynamic partnership with the AU far beyond peace support operations to include broad efforts to address root causes.

In particular, the Security Council can consider the various areas of cooperation included in the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, which was signed in April by Secretary-General Guterres and AU Commission Chair Moussa Faki Mahamat. The Framework includes a focus on preventing and mediating conflict, addressing root causes and responding to conflict, including financial cooperation on AU peace support operations. Broad and holistic cooperation will be needed to meet the challenges we collectively face.

Peace and stability in Africa require self-sustaining economic growth. In turn, that requires that the benefits of economic growth reach all people, who must be able to exercise their potential and participate actively in national and social development. Cooperation between the United Nations and the AU on the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 will play a vital role in Africa's peace and stability and in addressing root causes of conflict.

Since October 1993, together with the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme, the African Union Commission and the World Bank, Japan has co-hosted the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) in order to achieve Africa's long-term development through African ownership and international partnership. Through the TICAD process, Japan's efforts have always centred on the long-term development of individual and institutional capacities. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, we have partnered with the United Nations since 2004 to conduct training for more than 20,000 police officers in the country, including women and reintegrated former combatants. Similar efforts are under way in Côte d'Ivoire and Mali.

Finally, during his trip to Somalia in March, the Secretary-General noted that the country is at a moment of both tragedy and hope. The same twin possibilities exist for many countries in Africa and are the subject of much international attention, as demonstrated by today's open debate. With this in mind, it is essential that Africa's partners, including States Members of the United Nations, the Security Council, the Peacebuilding Commission and other international organizations sustain the current high level of attention towards Africa. Japan will remain actively engaged with the continent going forward under the twin pillars of African ownership and international partnership.

Mr. Alemu (Ethiopia): I would like to begin by expressing sincere appreciation to you, Mr. President, for having organized this open debate to facilitate discussion on enhancing Africa's capacity in the area of peace and security. This is indeed, as Commissioner Chergui has said, a demonstration of China's continued

commitment to and support for Africa in the spirit of the China-Africa partnership, which we very much welcome.

We also thank Secretary-General António Guterres for his presence here with us this morning and for his briefing on the efforts being made to strengthen the United Nations-African Union (AU) partnership. We are also very glad to have Commissioner Chergui with us and are grateful to him for sharing the AU perspective on the topic under discussion today. I must state that both briefings we have heard, that of the Secretary-General and that of Commissioner Chergui, were very enriching indeed. We are also extremely pleased to have with us the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Senegal, whose presence is a demonstration of his commitment and that of his country to peace and security on our continent.

It is fitting that this open debate is taking place following the 29th AU Summit, held in Addis Ababa, which, among other things, deliberated on the state of peace and security in Africa. The Summit exchanged views on ways and means of strengthening the role and capacity of the African Union in responding to conflict and crisis situations on the continent. In this regard, conflict prevention has been given the utmost priority, and the Summit attached great importance to the implementation of the African Union master road map of practical steps for silencing the guns in Africa by 2020, as reiterated by Commissioner Chergui in his statement today.

Of course, enormous challenges exist that undermine the prospects for realizing this noble objective, and there is a need for greater mobilization of efforts by States members of the African Union as well as its regional mechanisms to reverse the tide of conflicts ravaging various regions of the continent. That is why addressing the root causes of conflicts as well as undertaking effective security-sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes in countries emerging from conflict in order to avoid relapse was strongly stressed during the Summit.

There is also a recognition that if it does not undertake the necessary institutional reforms and ensure self-reliance in financing its strategies, including in the area of peace and security, the African Union will not be able effectively to contribute to achieving sustainable peace and prosperity. It is in this context that the 29th Summit held thorough deliberations on accelerating institutional reforms and stepping up efforts in financing the Union, particularly the Peace Fund, which is considered a key factor for the success of peace efforts on the continent.

Accordingly, important decisions were made by the Summit, including endorsing the governance structures and eligibility criteria of the Peace Fund as well as the scope of operations to be submitted, on a case-by-case basis, for authorization by the Council and subsequent financing through United Nations assessed contributions. This is one of the concrete outcomes of the Summit that demonstrates Africa's commitment to ensuring greater ownership and responsibility in dealing with the peace and security challenges facing the continent.

This is indeed a considerable asset for the Council, which has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, in accordance with the United Nations Charter. At a time when the world is confronting new and emerging challenges to international peace and security, the United Nations cannot alone effectively respond to the many existing conflict and crisis situations. Enhancing partnerships with regional and subregional organizations such as the African Union, in the spirit of Chapter VIII of the Charter, is indeed the sensible and logical approach needed to effectively respond to the ever-changing global security dynamics and thus improve collective security.

That is why we welcome the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, signed by the leadership of the two organizations on 19 May. We believe that this will contribute to addressing challenges relating to peace and security in Africa across the full spectrum of the conflict cycle.

On a number of occasions, the Council has expressed its determination to take effective steps to further enhance the relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations, in particular the African Union. The adoption of resolution 2320 (2016) last year — and we applaud that initiative by Senegal — is a tangible testament to the Council's commitment to strengthening the cooperation and partnership between the United Nations and the African Union. It is in this context that the Council acknowledged the need for more support so as to enhance AU peace operations

and the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing for the African Union-led peace-support operations authorized by the Security Council.

As we discussed last month, a concrete proposal has been developed jointly by the United Nations and the African Union that provides options for authorization and support of AU-led peace-support operations on a case-by-case basis. Progress in the discussions on this issue is extremely critical in supporting Africa in building its capacity to deal with its peace and security challenges.

The Council has had the right sentiments and made encouraging gestures in terms of expressing full support for the enhancement of the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union, but now it is time for it to match that expression of strong support with concrete action by taking practical steps towards the financing of AU-led peace-support operations authorized by the Council. As the representative of Italy said, this must be a time for implementation.

Finally, we once again express appreciation to China for having provided this important platform for discussion on this issue of paramount importance to Africa, building on the important meeting we had last month. We hope that we will be able to sustain the necessary momentum over the next couple of months with the upcoming presidency of Egypt and Ethiopia, in August and September, respectively.

Mr. Skoog (Sweden): I thank you, Sir, for organizing today's important discussion. I also want to thank the Secretary-General and the African Union Commissioner for their very valuable inputs into this important issue.

Sweden aligns itself with the statement to be made on behalf of the European Union and the statement to be delivered later today by the representative of Denmark on behalf of the Nordic countries.

We live in a world where most of the challenges we face are common and increasingly interconnected. The issues of transnational crime, illicit financial flows, the negative effects of climate change and the threat of terrorism — to name but a few — have little respect for national borders. This is no less true on the African continent than anywhere else. The security threats facing African countries are the threats that face us all. They are regional manifestations of global phenomena. Thus, when African countries respond, they respond on behalf of us all.

Supporting and further strengthening African capabilities to deal with threats to peace and security is therefore essential to our common and global efforts. In Africa, the African Union (AU), working with other regional and subregional actors, is already playing a central role in enabling regional unity and action. The recently adopted resolution 2359 (2017), welcoming the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel, is an important example of how the Security Council is moving towards supporting enhanced regional cooperation and ownership to address such common security threats.

As we all know, prevention is the best cure. The response to the crisis in the Gambia earlier this year illustrates how active diplomacy at the subregional level, through the Economic Community of West African States — reinforced at the regional level by the African Union and with the strong backing of a united Security Council — contributed to ending the crisis. There are important lessons to be learned from the Gambia experience, particularly regarding the importance of regional unity and aligned action, which can help guide action in similar situations in Africa and beyond.

Tomorrow, we will discuss the crisis in the South Sudan. Close coordination among the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the African Union and the United Nations is essential to achieving a ceasefire and resuming an inclusive political process.

Enhanced regional capacities will allow regional actors to undertake operations and work in environments where they are best placed to do so. We welcome the current momentum around the United Nations-African Union partnership agenda. We must now act to seize this win-win opportunity. The leadership is in place. Since the very beginning of his tenure, the Secretary-General has rightly underscored the importance of the mutually beneficial partnership between the United Nations and Africa as central to the sustaining peace agenda. The Secretary-General has a partner in the African Union leadership, represented here today by the Commissioner for Peace and Security.

The framework for collaboration and cooperation is also in place. The recently signed Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security underlines our

shared commitment. The joint efforts of the Secretary-General and the Commission Chairperson to advance the partnership, not least through recent reports and the implementation of resolution 2320 (2016), are welcome and encouraging. With the leadership and framework in place, what is now needed to realize the full potential of the partnership is the stronger financial and better calibrated political support.

We recognize the need for flexible, predictable and sustainable funding of AU peace operations, including access to assessed United Nations contributions, and we look forward to continued discussion on the modalities. Sweden is ready to play its part and looks forward to engaging further on this issue, based on the proposals laid out in the Secretary-General's report (S/2017/454). In addition, as a member of the European Union (EU), we are proud of the long-standing and considerable EU support to the African Union's peace operations and the African Peace and Security Architecture, not least through the African Peace Facility.

In Somalia, we see important work being carried out by the African Union, the European Union and the United Nations, separately as well as through genuine collaboration. In this context, let me also underline the need for continued financing for the African Union Mission in Somalia, which is crucial to stability and peace in Somalia. We understand that the fight against Al-Shabaab in Somalia is part of the global right against terrorism. Based on the positive experience in Somalia, we would welcome further opportunities for a trilateral collaborative platform among the three organizations. Moving forward on this agenda will require substantial and sustained political investment, including on the part of the Security Council.

Our efforts to enhance African capabilities must go beyond strengthening military responses. Holistic approaches to peacebuilding across the conflict cycle are needed. Such approaches include structural prevention, as well as building strong and inclusive institutions. They also require scaled-up efforts to address the root causes of conflict and underdevelopment, including by ensuring respect for human rights, also within peace operations, and the inclusion of women in mediation and peace processes. Taken together, the AU Agenda 2063, the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the sustaining peace agenda can offer a framework for this work.

The upcoming annual consultation with the AU Peace and Security Council, followed by the plenary session of the General Assembly, both in September; the AU-EU Summit in Abidjan in November; as well as a sequence of discussions planned in the Council all offer opportunities to move forward with this agenda. Let us fully seize these opportunities.

Mr. Fernández Revollo (Plurinational State of Bolivia) (*spoke in Spanish*): Bolivia welcomes the Secretary-General and the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, Mr. Chergui, and thanks them for their briefings. We also thank China for having organized this important debate.

Bolivia believes that the development of African capabilities in the areas of peace and security should be framed in the principles of sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, and in accordance with the national priorities of each State. The countries of Africa enjoy a unique history where the plurality of cultures converges and where biodiversity, ecosystems and natural resources are the heritage of Africans and humankind.

It is pertinent to recall that, in the 1960s, Africa took a major step forward in addressing its problems by creating the Organization of African Unity, drawing the foundational outline of the continent's integration dynamics and setting the stage for the construction of African conflict-resolution initiatives. Over time, the Organization of African Unity gave way to the African Union and a gamut of organizations such as African Union Commission, the Pan African Parliament, the Economic, Social and Cultural Council, the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, the African Union International Law Commission and the Peace and Security Council, among others. Each step strengthened the institutionality of African organizations, deepening the integration dynamics of the continent. This institution-building has given us many successful examples of what we now call "African solutions to African problems".

In the same way, time has also shown us that African institutions and organizations can benefit greatly from the experience and practices of other international institutions and organizations, such as the United Nations, provided that the relationship is one of respect and partnership and does not impose formulas and alien ways. As an example within the framework of the collective approach, coordination and

joint work with the United Nations, we must highlight the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, which has enabled the African Union to do important work on the protection of civilians, which is one of the most important peacekeeping tasks in the world. Similarly, the African Union Mission in Somalia demonstrates the active participation of the African Union in the region through the initiative to stabilize the country through dialogue and reconciliation.

Furthermore, the participation of such subregional organizations as the Economic Community of Central African States and the Economic Community of West African States have proven their importance in the area of cooperation. Likewise, the role played by the Group of Five for the Sahel in Mali reinforces the work of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali in areas of border security, the fight against organized crime and the protection of civilians in the sector. It is extremely important that we continue to support that regional initiative.

Bolivia reiterates that it is essential to consolidate the strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union in the political, operational, tactical and financial spheres. In that regard, the African Union has acknowledged that it hopes to receive support from the United Nations for the development of its capabilities, a sentiment reflected in the document entitled "Enhancing United Nations-African Union cooperation: Framework for the 10-year capacity building programme for the African Union", agreed in November 2006 — with peace and security as one of the dimensions of that cooperative framework.

Ten years later, in a qualitatively different African context from that in 2006, which, despite the notable progress, is still complex, we have the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, signed on 19 April. The Framework identifies various activities that could enhance the strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union. Among those ideas is the need to develop a shared understanding of the factors that give rise to conflict, to share early warning information on potential conflicts, to jointly develop ways to prevent conflicts, and to coordinate joint action and mutual support during the various stages of conflict response — ranging from conflict mediation and management to peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

We are eagerly looking forward to the Council's visit to the African Union Peace and Security Council, which will enable the consolidation of the cooperative framework between those institutions and the concrete pursuit of additional steps that will bolster the capacities of the African Union in the field of peace and security.

Bolivia firmly believes that multilateralism, preventive diplomacy, mediation, good offices and inclusive dialogue are key instruments in the promotion of peace, stability and socioeconomic development in Africa. Finally, we must note that it is time to permanently settle our historic debt to Africa. Partner countries and entities should keep their commitments to Africa in that regard, so that we can continue on the path to stability, peace, security and development of the people of our brother continent.

Mr. Delattre (France) (*spoke in French*): I would like to begin by thanking you, Mr. President, for having organized this very timely debate. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General and the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, Mr. Smail Chergui, for their briefings and for their personal commitment to fostering strong relations between their two organizations, which is a top priority for France. I would also like to warmly welcome the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Senegal, Mr. Mankeur Ndiaye. I would like to highlight three points.

First of all, France warmly welcomes the firm commitment of African countries and organizations to the peace and security of the continent. That commitment is evident in the participation of African States in peacekeeping operations, in which they have been among the top contributors of both military and police personnel. Indeed, some African States have taken the decision to increase their participation, and France welcomes their initiative.

The African commitment to peace and security on the continent is also reflected in the operations under the auspices of the African Union. That is definitely the case for the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the Multinational Joint Task Force fighting Boko Haram today, but we have also seen, in past years, the African-led International Support Mission in Mali and the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic. In the Gulf of Guinea, the countries of the Economic Community of West African States and the Economic Community of Central African States have joined

forces to combat the resurgence of maritime piracy. For the continent as a whole, the operationalization of the African Standby Force is a positive development that provides significant opportunities.

Today it is the countries of the Group of Five (G-5) for the Sahel that are showing their willingness to be fully engaged in the fight against terrorist groups that destabilize the region. That strong commitment is to be welcomed and encouraged, and is the goal of resolution 2359 (2017), adopted by the Council on 21 June.

Secondly, against that backdrop of progress, France fully supports the African continent's commitment to peace and security. The Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme for the African Union reflects Africa's commitment, which France fully supports.

At the bilateral level, France is one of the leading partners of African countries on issues of peace and security. In that connection, France has contributed to the training of more than 25,000 African soldiers per year, officers and soldiers, in 11 African countries. Those courses cover more than 57 different themes, including peacekeeping, management training, logistics, demining and maritime security. They are priority courses offered through a network of 14 national schools with a regional focus, but also in officer schools in France.

France also collaborates at the operational level with a view to implementing partnership agreements. France thereby supports our African partners in peace operations and contributes to such operations by providing training, but also by equipping African contingents and supporting their operational deployment. In the Sahel, French forces of Operation Barkhane are fighting alongside the African and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali forces for the stability of the region. In the Gulf of Guinea, in the framework of Operation Corymbe, France supports the maritime security efforts of the countries of the region.

Those efforts are intended to be carried out in synergy with those being deployed by international organizations, in particular the European Union. In Mali, the Niger, the Central African Republic and Somalia, the European Union is committed to strengthening African peace and security capacities through its European Union Military Training Mission in the Central African Republic and European Union Capacity Building Mission in Mali operations. The European Union is also a major contributor to the financing of African operations, such as AMISOM, the Multinational Joint Task Force for the fight against Boko Haram, and the G-5 Sahel Joint Force.

That support also includes promoting an integrated approach to the stabilization and fostering sustainable peace. In that connection, on 13 July, France, Germany and the European Union launched the Alliance for the Sahel, which promotes an integrated approach to the region — focusing initially on security and stabilization and then on medium- and long-term development. Drawing on that experience, France calls on the international community to maintain and bolster its support for the continent.

Thirdly, the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union — which France firmly believes must be strengthened — is now more than ever a way to ensure African capacity-building in the area of peace and security. Over the past few months, there has been growing momentum in pursuit of enhancing the existing cooperation between the two organizations. In that respect, I welcome the Secretary-General's personal commitment to that process, particularly through the partnership framework that he signed with the African Union in April.

That momentum is necessary in a context where African peace operations can have real comparative advantages over those of the United Nations when they contribute to the goals of the Charter of the United Nations and build on its provisions. The reports of the Secretary-General (S/2017/454) and the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union submitted in accordance with resolution 2320 (2016) have provided useful information on the progress that has been made and the objectives still to be achieved. Their proposals on mechanisms for deploying and financing African peace operations deserve close, constructive and collective examination from the perspective of current reciprocal commitments. In that context, we welcome the African Union's commitments, both with regard to covering 25 per cent of the cost of its operations and related aspects, such as their planning and conduct, and with regard to training and supervision, including through mechanisms for accountability and respect for human rights on the part of the forces concerned. A strengthened, dynamic dialogue will enable us to make structural improvements to our common response efforts. Next September's consultations in Addis Ababa between the Security Council and the Peace

and Security Council of the African Union will be an important phase in that regard.

The development of African peace capacities is a crucial factor for peace and stability on the continent and therefore a priority area for us. France will continue to play its full part in the efforts for security in Africa in a spirit of dynamic partnership.

Mr. Moustafa (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would first like to thank China, as President of the Security Council for the month of July, for choosing the subject of enhancing African capacities in the area of peace and security for today's open debate. It demonstrates China's commitment to strengthening peace and security efforts in Africa. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General and the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union for their comprehensive briefings on the evolution of cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union (AU) in the various areas related to peace and security.

The past few months have seen a number of developments with regard to the strengthening of peace and security in Africa. In January, the African Union Summit adopted a road map reaffirming its decision on practical steps to silence the guns by 2020, whose effects can be measured and which divides the burden of the tasks involved between the African Union and regional organizations. The month of April saw the signing of the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, which the Secretary-General and the Commissioner discussed this morning in their briefings. To that we can add the Secretary-General's report (S/2017/454) pursuant to resolution 2320 (2016), on options for providing support to African Union peace support operations. From now on, the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union constitutes one of the pillars of the two organizations in their efforts to deal with the challenges facing our continent of Africa, based on Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations and with regard to the specific characteristics of each of the parties concerned.

In the past few years we have seen joint efforts meet with success in such peacekeeping operations as the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and through United Nations support to the African Union Mission in Somalia. Through its Office to the African Union, the United Nations has also helped to strengthen the AU Commission's human and institutional capacities, in a demonstration of the increased awareness in both organizations of the importance of new, innovative working methods in dealing with today's challenges to peace and security in Africa, which demand that the cooperation arrangements between the two be restructured. As the challenges continue to evolve in unconventional ways, taking the form of transnational organized crime, terrorism, piracy and trafficking in small arms and light weapons, those challenges, whose effects are not limited to our continent, are driving increased efforts for cooperation and joint action between Africa and its partners. Success in combating such challenges is also closely linked to factors such as the strengthening of institutional and human capacities in the African Union and regional organizations, with the goal of achieving our shared objective of achieving peace and security on the continent and ensuring that the principle of African solutions to African problems can become a reality.

The efforts that have been agreed on with a view to implementing the concept of sustaining peace and incorporating it into the work of both the United Nations and the African Union require that we sharpen our focus on the prevention of conflicts and on early warning and the peaceful settlement of disputes. That aspect is a major component of Africa's peace and security architecture, through its Panel of the Wise and the Continental Early Warning System. We hope that cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union will win the support it needs to help strengthen African capacities in this area so as to implement the concept of sustaining peace.

Tackling the real, underlying causes of conflicts is the simplest and least difficult way to settle them, in both human and economic terms, because economic development is so closely tied to respect for human rights, to strengthening good governance and to preventing conflicts. We can also not ignore its importance as a route to resolving conflicts on our continent through a comprehensive vision based on all the activities that I have just mentioned. Post-conflict reconstruction and development is one of the chief pathways enabling us to strengthen peace and security in our States by ensuring that countries emerging from conflict do not relapse into a vicious circle of violence. We must support efforts to build institutions in those countries, so that they can provide basic services, as the representative of Japan so eloquently said. We must support national reconciliation efforts, particularly those made through

national and conventional mechanisms. The African Union has launched the African Solidarity Initiative, which is currently being fine-tuned to create an African Union Centre for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development in Cairo. We would like to see the United Nations play an active role in support of that initiative through assistance in setting it up and in supporting efforts to establish the Centre.

The African Union has played a decisive role alongside regional groups in recent years aimed at strengthening peacekeeping operations on the African continent, in particular peace operations and efforts to fight terrorism, as well as action taken in dangerous circumstances that do not correspond to the conventional criteria for United Nations peacekeeping operations. I welcome the role played in that connection by the African Union as well as by regional groups. Their actions have been effective in tackling the challenges, the repercussions of which are not limited to the continent but spread to other parts of the world.

It is clear that efforts to build the foundations for peace and security on the African continent will be successful only with the support of the African Union and regional groups aimed at carrying out those tasks, whether in the Lake Chad region, the Sahel, Somalia or elsewhere.

At African Union summits in recent years, ambitious resolutions have been adopted to strengthen self-sufficiency in reinforcing African peace and security operations and to strengthen the Peace Fund as a component of the African Peace and Security Architecture. I would like to remind the Council of the importance of resolution 2320 (2016), as well as to direct the Council's attention to alternatives cset out in the report of the Secretary General (S/2017/454) on supporting African peacekeeping operations and on the principle of using assessed contributions with a view to financing peacekeeping operations in Africa in a sustainable, flexible and predictable way.

I would also like to refer to the role of women and young people in peace and security efforts in Africa. We must strengthen the contributions of those two groups in order to achieve peace and security on the continent.

I once again thank the Chinese presidency of the Council for having given us this opportunity to have an exchange on this subject.

Mrs. Haley (United States of America): I thank our briefers. I also thank China for organizing this very important debate.

Over the past couple of decades, a welcome shift has occurred in the international community's relationship with Africa. The United States regards itself as a partner to Africa and looks to build on that relationship and strengthen it. In a relationship of equals, responsibility falls on both parties to contribute to solutions.

We applaud and encourage the increasing leadership that the African Union and African Member States have exercised in contributing to peace operations and battling terrorist and insurgent groups. Today we reaffirm the African Union's role as an indispensable partner to both the United States and the United Nations in promoting peace and security in Africa. But true progress cannot be achieved unless the efforts of the United Nations and others are accompanied by accountability on the part of the Governments involved in conflict. The developing famines in Africa are a tragic example of that. More than 14 million people are at risk of famine today in north-east Nigeria, Somalia and South Sudan. That is a crisis that should be leading every newscast and should be on the front page of every newspaper. The United States will continue to lead in bringing together resources to overcome that crisis. On 8 July we announced an additional $446 million in humanitarian assistance to suffering people from South Sudan, Nigeria and Somalia, bringing the total for fiscal year 2017 to $1.4 billion.

We thank all the donors and communities hosting displaced persons for their incredible generosity; but our ability to provide real relief is hampered by one inescapable fact: armed conflict is the primary cause of food insecurity in South Sudan, Nigeria and Somalia. Famine in Africa is an issue of peace and security. People are dying of hunger, not because of acts of God, but because of acts of man. It is the parties to those conflicts that bear direct responsibility. They are responsible for the lack of access to people in need of food, water and health services. They are responsible, as well, for the millions of refugees and internally displaced persons suffering in Africa today.

More than half of the population in Somalia is in need of humanitarian assistance; but ongoing violence, including deliberate attacks on aid workers, is preventing people from getting the assistance they need.

Al-Shabaab's terrorist attacks, as well as logistical and administrative obstacles, are cutting off access to hard-hit rural areas. We urge the Federal Government of Somalia and the leadership of the interim federal member states of the country to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian goods. We also strongly call for an end to the use of illegal checkpoints by Government-affiliated entities.

The man-made crisis in South Sudan has created the greatest number of refugees in Africa since the Rwandan genocide. The crisis would be much worse if it were not for neighbours like Uganda, which is taking in hundreds of South Sudanese every day. But the patience and generosity of humanitarians are being severely tested. Their efforts to lessen the suffering in South Sudan are being actively obstructed by the Government and other parties. Such famines are a sign of a collective failure, and any effective response must begin with the nations of Africa themselves. African Union (AU) member States must ramp up their response to this crisis. AU Commission Chair, Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, spoke for many of us when he said,

> "I cannot hide my deep frustration at the silence and inaction of Africans in the face of the terrible tragedy of famine in these regions."

We must continue to look for ways to bolster the capabilities of Member States to promote peace and security. The African Union must work with subregional organizations and individual States to confront peace and security challenges with one voice.

African nations must also work constructively with the United Nations to address an underlying cause of the conflict that is driving the risk of famine in Africa. I have spoken many times about the relationship between human rights violations and conflict. To its credit, the African Union has established a Hybrid Court for South Sudan to investigate and prosecute individuals who have violated human rights laws during the conflict. The establishment of that Court and the message that it will send are important and necessary, if there is to be lasting peace in South Sudan.

However, the commitment to promoting human rights must precede conflict and take precedence over politics in order to secure peace and security. When the nations of the Group of African States put forward a country like the Democratic Republic of the Congo to be a member of the Human Rights Council it does more than just weaken that body, it adds to the conflict that is causing so much suffering on the continent. This is a pivotal time for the Human Rights Council. It has the potential to be an asset to the men, women and children suffering in Africa today, but it can play that role only if its membership consists of nations committed to promoting and upholding universal human rights. That, in turn, depends upon African States putting forward credible candidates with strong human rights records. The nomination of the Democratic Republic of the Congo is an inexcusable failure of that process.

My hope is that we can all summon the political will and courage to change the trajectory of the ongoing political and humanitarian crisis in Africa. Famine should not exist in 2017. Our duty is to hold those responsible to account. The United States will continue to do its part.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I shall now make a statement in my capacity as representative of China.

China thanks Secretary-General Guterres and Mr. Chergui, the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union (AU), for their briefings. We greatly appreciate their important efforts to promote capacity-building in the area of peace and security in Africa. The peace and security of the world constitute an indivisible whole. Enhancing African capacities in the areas of peace and security is in the interests of the entire international community and represents an important responsibility of the Security Council.

In recent years, African countries have worked in unison to address African problems in African ways, thereby making great contributions to the maintenance of peace and security in the continent. The twenty-ninth AU Summit, which just concluded, decided to preserve the Union's commitment to addressing the hotspot issues in Africa, to continue to enhance African capacities in peace and security, to reinforce Africa's collective security mechanism and to improve the African peace and security framework. The Summit also reaffirmed the goal of silencing the guns by 2020.

That important decision demonstrates to the international community Africa's resolve to strive for peace and security, and represents an important contribution to international peace and security, for which China wishes to express its great appreciation. Africa is still confronted with multiple challenges in the areas of peace and security. Some countries of the region are still plagued by ongoing conflicts or political instability. Terrorist groups, such as the Islamic State

in Iraq and the Sham and Al-Qaida, are infiltrating the heartland of the continent and are engaging in rampant terrorist activities in collusion with other terrorist organizations, such as Boko Haram and Al-Shabaab. Some African countries suffer from sluggish economic growth and are beset with problems of unemployment, poverty and refugees.

In the face of those difficulties, Africa is not fully equipped for the tasks of conflict prevention and resolution and the maintenance of peace and security, and AU peace operations are constrained by inadequacies in financial resources, equipment, technology and management systems. The international community must vigorously help Africa solve those difficulties and support the continent in its capacity-building in the areas of peace and security.

First, we need to continuously improve the cooperation partnership between the United Nations and the African Union, as well as other regional and subregional organizations.

In recent years, the United Nations has carried out fruitful cooperation with the AU on the questions of Darfur, the Sudan, Somalia and Mali. In April this year, the two organizations signed the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security so as to further strengthen their partnership in this area. We hope that the Joint Framework will be put into practice at an early date, and we support the United Nations in continuing, on the basis of full respect for the leadership of Africa in their efforts to address the continent's security problems, to deepen coordination with the AU and other regional and subregional organizations, and to strengthen cooperation with Africa in conflict-prevention, crisis management and post-conflict reconstruction.

The Security Council should increase communication and coordination with the AU Peace and Security Council, build mechanisms for joint planning, decision-making, assessment and briefings, jointly conduct work in the areas of early warning, strategic review, mandate design and deployment, and continuously improve cooperation.

Secondly, we need to effectively support peace operations conducted by the AU, which represent an important means for responding to crises in the African continent and provide a welcome supplement to United Nations peacekeeping operations. The actions taken by the AU in Somalia, the Lake Chad basin and the Sahel have played an important role in addressing the crises there. However, AU peace operations are faced with difficulties in terms of personnel, funds and resources. Not long ago, the Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the AU Commission submitted their respective reports to the Security Council on support for AU peace operations, which called on the Council to consider models of United Nations financing of AU peace operations.

China supports the United Nations in [illegible] to give positive consideration to the proposal made by Africa and to provide adequate, stable and sustainable funds to AU peace operations through assistance aimed at helping them to establish a sustained, stable and predictable funding mechanism, so that AU peace operations can enhance their capacities in mandate designation, financing, mandate implementation and management. There is a need to help the AU speed up the building of a standby force, a rapid reaction force and an early-warning mechanism. We also need to deepen cooperation in military technology and expand the scope of military training.

Thirdly, we need to support Africa in addressing the root causes of conflicts. Africa's hotspots involve complex national, ethnic, religious and social tensions. It is therefore necessary to address both the symptoms and the root causes. While giving attention to the current problems of peace and security, we need also to work to eliminate the source of those problems, particularly by supporting Africa in its efforts to accelerate development and reduce poverty, thereby eliminating the breeding grounds for conflicts and extremism.

The twenty-ninth AU Summit chose youth as its theme and focused on youth employment and poverty reduction. The international community should combine its efforts to help Africa implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with the Africa Union's Agenda 2063; start working on infrastructure-building in the areas of medical care, education, the economy, trade and interconnectivity; and focus on addressing the problems facing Africa in such areas as youth, women and children, refugees and employment with a view to enhancing socioeconomic development in African countries.

Fourthly, we need to keep strengthening United Nations peacekeeping efforts in Africa. Africa is the focus of the Security Council's agenda and of United Nations peacekeeping operations. The United Nations

peacekeeping operations in Africa must uphold the basic principles of peacekeeping, respect the sovereignty of host countries, take into account all factors, such as the practical needs of host countries, the security environment and the mandate's goals, design well-targeted mandates for peacekeeping missions, and adjust the priorities and the focus of work for different phases. The Secretariat needs to take effective measures to improve its command system for peacekeeping operations in Africa; increase the efficiency of the missions; take measures to ensure the safety and security of peacekeepers; enhance early-warning capacity to deal with security threats; and provide adequate logistical guarantees.

China has been a firm supporter of the efforts of African countries to address African issues in African ways. China has taken an active part in United Nations peacekeeping operations in Africa, with 2,600 peacekeepers currently serving in Africa. We have also participated actively in combating piracy and in escorting commercial ships off the coast of Somalia. In 2015, the China-Africa Cooperation Forum developed 10 major China-Africa cooperation plans, which cover economic and social development as well as peace and security.

In the areas of peace and security, China will focus on enhancing Africa's peacebuilding capacity, including supporting the establishment of a standby force and a rapid reaction force of Africa. Currently, the relevant work is well under way. The Belt and Road initiative proposed by China will help Africa realize its own development and solve the root causes of conflicts. China will uphold the idea of wide consultations, joint contribution and benefit-sharing, cooperate closely with African countries within the framework of the Belt and Road initiative, continue to help and support Africa in enhancing its capacity in peace and security, with a view to realizing an early settlement of the hotspot issues in Africa and achieving peace, stability and the development of the African continent.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I would like to remind all speakers to limit their statements to no more than four minutes in order to enable the Council to conduct its work expeditiously. Delegations with lengthy statements are kindly requested to circulate their written text and to deliver a condensed version when speaking in the Chamber.

I now give the floor to the representative of Peru.

Mr. Meza-Cuadra (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation thanks the People's Republic of China for having convened today's open debate, which provides an ideal opportunity to discuss the important and necessary need to enhance African capacities in the areas of peace and security.

Similarly, my delegation thanks the Secretary-General and the African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security for their valuable contributions to today's debate.

Despite the progress achieved in strengthening democracy in Africa and the continent's vast potential, its security is threatened by the presence of violent extremist groups, terrorism and transnational organized crime. In that regard, for many years the United Nations has been establishing regional offices and peacekeeping missions to address those threats. Peru is pleased to participate in that initiative by contributing military observers, administrative staff, officers and troops to five peacekeeping operations in Africa, including an engineering unit in the Central African Republic.

In addition, the Organization has built strategic partnerships with various regional and subregional initiatives on the continent, which are all part of that joint effort, such as the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the Group of Five for the Sahel, the Lake Chad Basin Commission and the Mano River Union. Peru acknowledges and commends the leadership demonstrated by the African countries spearheading those initiatives, which has created a virtuous circle of cooperation and positive synergies at the global, regional and subregional levels and among the States involved.

Since its establishment, in 2002, the African Union has played a fundamental role in maintaining peace and security in the region. Through its Peace and Security Council, it works to implement a common African defence and security policy and to establish the continent's Peace and Security Architecture. In that regard, Peru welcomes the ever-closer relations and complementarity between the African Union and the United Nations, in particular with the signing in April of the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security.

My country believes that the Council's firm commitment to security is important, as it continues

to supporting African countries in the fight against radical groups, as stipulated in resolution 2359 (2017), which authorizes the deployment of the Group of Five for the Sahel Joint Force to restore peace and security in the region. That measure seeks to combat the terrorist threat, transnational organized crime, trafficking in illicit weapons and drugs, and trafficking in persons. Peru believes that such schemes can also be used in other African subregions.

Although the initiatives I mentioned are examples of the way in which joint efforts can help to combat threats to peace and security, many challenges remain. The establishment and renewal of peacekeeping mission mandates are opportunities for partnership with African countries and regional and subregional organizations, which should be analysed by all organizations concerned and equipped with the necessary resources. Similarly, acknowledging that peace and development are directly related, we feel that it is essential for the international community to take part in building the capacity of Governments so as to enable them to address the threats to peace and security in Africa, within the framework of what is referred to as sustaining peace. To that end, Peru underscores that several countries in the region have been implementing constitutional, institutional and political reforms.

In conclusion, Peru acknowledges that States and African organizations are called upon to shoulder greater responsibilities in the joint endeavour of promoting peace and security in the continent. That will be possible only through close cooperation among the Security Council, United Nations agencies and the various African subregional and regional organizations in order to capitalize on each entity's comparative advantage, based on the knowledge of the threats posed and unique circumstances on the ground.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of Brazil.

Mr. Vieira (Brazil): I thank you, Mr. President, for holding today's important debate.

Allow me to reiterate Brazil's support for Africa, a continent with which we have a unique historic and cultural connection. It is also a region of strategic importance for us. Today Brazil maintains 39 diplomatic posts in Africa, which are a very important part of our global network of Embassies.

Brazil has participated in United Nations efforts to promote peace in Africa from the outset, having contributed to the United Nations Emergency Force in Suez from 1956 to 1967, and to the United Nations Operation in the Congo from 1960 to 1964. Since then, Brazil has actively taken part in several United Nations peacekeeping operations in the continent. We have contributed troops to the United Nations Operation in Mozambique and to the third United Nations Angola Verification Mission. More recently, from 2013 to 2015, a Brazilian army officer, General Carlos Alberto dos Santos Cruz, was the Force Commander of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Today Brazil contributes military observers and staff officers to seven United Nations missions in Africa. We reiterate our willingness to continue supporting United Nations peacekeeping operations in Africa, now and in the future.

In its capacity as Chair of the Guinea-Bissau country-specific configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, Brazil also attaches great importance to close coordination with other African countries and institutions in supporting Guinea-Bissau in its efforts to achieve peace and prosperity.

Bilaterally, Brazil is also involved in the enhancement of African capabilities with regard to peace and security. The Brazilian army now cooperates with Cape Verde, Mozambique, Namibia, Sao Tome and Principe, and South Africa. We are also starting a project in the predeployment training of peacekeepers with Ethiopia, while officers and other members of the armed forces from the region have graduated from Brazilian military academies. The Brazilian army is also involved in the triangular partnership project to train African military engineers to be deployed to peacekeeping missions.

In Namibia, a Brazilian naval mission has contributed to the training of more than 2,000 members of the Namibian navy. In Cabo Verde, since 2013, and in Sao Tome and Principe, since 2015, we have maintained naval missions to identify possibilities for cooperation with those countries and to help train members of their navies. Brazil also conducts maritime exercises with African countries aimed at improving cooperation among participating nations.

Allow me also to recall the zone of peace and cooperation in the South Atlantic, made up of 24

countries, including all of the countries situated on the West African coast, from Cape Verde and Senegal to South Africa, as well as Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay. Members of that zone have agreed to consolidate the region as one of peace and cooperation so as to ensure that it remains free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, as well as to respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of its countries.

An innovative project is under way in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Through the practice of the Afro-Brazilian martial art of capoeira, Brazil has facilitated, in partnership with UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme and civil society, the social reintegration of children formerly linked to armed groups.

We welcomed the adoption of resolution 2330 (2016) and look forward to the implementation of the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security. We support African Union initiatives aimed at dealing with crises and instability in Africa. The role of the African Union (AU) in Darfur, Mali, Somalia and the Central African Republic demonstrates the possibility of the positive impact of cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations.

In discussing the United Nations-AU partnership, we should not avoid the question of adequate means for the implementation of increasingly complex tasks. On the one hand, peacekeeping mandates must be accompanied by the necessary resources, while, on the other hand, regional actors should spare no effort to progressively bring their troops to the level of United Nations principles and standards of performance. In that regard, we take note with interest of the proposals presented by Secretary-General Guterres concerning authorization and support for African Union operations, which deserve further discussion. We should concentrate on prevention and the peaceful settlement of African problems instead of focusing disproportionately on peacekeeping and military operations once a conflict has broken out. With regard to the provision of financial support to the African Union missions authorized by the Council, it is important that our discussions also be carried out in depth in the General Assembly.

Brazil will continue to work closely with African countries within the multilateral and regional structures at its disposal for the promotion of peace and development.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of Pakistan.

Ms. Lodhi (Pakistan): We appreciate the initiative by your presidency, Sir, to organize this debate on peace and security in Africa. It is certainly encouraging that a permanent member of the Security Council has convened an open debate on a region that remains underrepresented in the Council, despite the fact that its peace and security continues to be the Council's main preoccupation.

We also thank the Secretary-General for his briefing and insightful remarks at the beginning of today's debate.

The Charter of the United Nations provides that, in matters pertaining to the maintenance of international peace and security, the Security Council acts on behalf of the General Assembly. It is therefore not just useful but also imperative for the Security Council to take into account the views of the general membership on those issues. Similarly, on regional peace and security, it only makes sense for the Council to listen closely to the opinions of Member States of the region concerned. After all, who can better understand the challenges faced by a region than the countries of that region themselves? Chapter VIII of the Charter therefore lays emphasis on a cooperative, interdependent and mutually reinforcing relationship between the United Nations and the relevant regional organizations. As the Secretary-General underlined this morning, that relationship should encompass prevention, mediation and the resolution of conflicts, as well as addressing the root causes of conflicts.

The growing dialogue between the Security Council and the African Union (AU) aimed at developing better and more effective responses to peace and security issues in Africa is welcome. Resolution 2320 (2016), as well as regular consultative dialogues between members of the Council and the AU Peace and Security Council — the most recent one having taken place in May 2017 — are manifestations of that trend. Pakistan believes that the African Union is a critical link between the Council and the challenges being faced in Africa, especially on issues of peace and security. That linkage can be utilized through a strategic partnership between the two organizations.

The partnership should be based on, inter alia, respective comparative advantage, burden-sharing and consultative decision-making, as identified in resolution 2320 (2016). If pursued with an objective approach, such a partnership can not only augment the ability of the Council to effectively meet its challenges, but also help enhance the capacity of the AU Peace and Security Council to shoulder more responsibilities for peace and security in Africa. We urge the Council to consider investing more financial and capacity-building resources in the enhancement of the AU's capabilities, especially in peacekeeping missions mandated by the Security Council itself. That support needs to be flexible, sustainable and predictable.

Pakistan also welcomed the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, signed in April, between the Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the AU Commission. We hope that the themes identified for cooperation, as well as the mechanisms set out for operationalizing those themes, will provide a good basis for further collaboration between the two organizations.

As one of the top troop-contributors to United Nations peacekeeping, Pakistan and its security personnel have contributed to many of the success stories in Africa, from Liberia to Sierra Leone. Our well-trained and professional peacekeepers have protected civilians, provided much-needed medical care and rebuilt lives and countries. They have worked in difficult and, at times, dangerous circumstances, but have never shied away from fulfilling their mandate. I must say, however, that our voice has remained either unsolicited or unheard when major decisions were made with regard to new deployments, crafting mandates, devising strategies pertaining to regional and trilateral cooperation and many of the other issues directly affecting our troops. That silo culture must change, if we want to make peacekeeping work at its optimum capacity. We also believe that the flawed notion of doing more with less should be seriously revisited, because erratic budget cuts will undermine and not advance peacekeeping in Africa.

The Security Council's consultative dialogues with regional organizations are a useful tool for the Council in its efforts to develop regional partnerships so as to address relevant issues of peace and security, just as we have seen in the case of the Council's dialogue with the AU Peace and Security Council. Those tools are of pivotal importance if unburdened from issues that go beyond the purview of regional problems. Therefore, in order to be of optimal use, those dialogues must continue to focus on practical approaches to the resolution of issues that are exclusively regional in nature. It is important to ensure that valuable time and effort are dedicated to finding pragmatic and durable solutions.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. João Pedro Vale de Almeida, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations.

Mr. Vale de Almeida: I have the pleasure to speak on behalf of the European Union and its member States. The following countries align themselves with this statement: the candidate countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania; the country of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina; as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia.

As close neighbours, Europe and Africa share a common future. Never before have the European Union's interests been so intertwined with Africa's. The direct connection between Libya and the Sahel and between the Horn of Africa and the Gulf, the Great Lakes and Southern Africa, call for a more strategic approach, while going beyond established formats.

We thank the presidency for organizing today's debate. This is an opportune moment to revisit our engagement and explore further avenues so as to better adapt the partnerships between the United Nations, the African Union and the European Union to the new threats and challenges faced by Africa. The partnership between the European Union and Africa encompasses many aspects and many actions, at the continental, regional, subregional or local levels. Allow me to focus today, as we have been invited to do in the concept note (S/2017/574, annex), on the ways in which the international community can best support the African Union.

At the political level, we welcome the strong signal of commitment conveyed by the recent signing of the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security. The 26 May report of the Secretary-General on options for authorization and support for African Union peace support operations (S/2017/454), and the accompanying

update from the African Union, are also very good demonstrations of how cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and the AU are being strengthened in a sustained manner.

But the report also sheds additional light on how the two organizations can best work together. It puts forward concrete proposals for joint assessments of the political, security, humanitarian and human rights dimensions of missions from the outset, as well as on the comparative advantage of the African Union and the roles of other partners. Similarly, it details how institutionalized approaches to joint planning, mandating and financing could look.

The European Union is already cooperating closely with the United Nations in all EU Common Security and Defence Policy missions. The EU and the United Nations are also working on joint programming and coordination mechanisms in support, for example, of security sector reform and the rule of law in the Central African Republic, and starting pilot projects in Mali and Somalia. Expanding this logic, such initiatives could be widened to include the African Union in a trilateral cooperation set-up. The EU stands ready to identify, together with the United Nations and the AU, areas to be addressed and deepen complementarity and synergies among all stakeholders. In this context, one of the proposals discussed with the AU and the regional economic communities and regional mechanisms during the recent senior officials meeting held in Addis on 5 July was to establish a collaborative platform to facilitate the sharing of information and to enhance operational cooperation among the EU, AU and the United Nations. More concrete suggestions on what this might look like are expected in the lead-up to the fifth African Union-EU Summit, which will take place in the fall in the Côte D'Ivoire.

The Secretary-General's report also highlights the importance of compliance and oversight, particularly in the areas of human rights and conduct and discipline. These are critical concerns in all peace operations. We welcome the African Union's efforts to put in place effective mechanisms to ensure respect human rights in all of its missions and encourage further progress in their implementation. Joint standards for reporting, accountability and protection are critical to ensuring the highest standards and robust oversight of missions.

Allow me to say a few words on funding. Diversification of funding is critical. The African Union and the continent have shown a strong sign of ambition and ownership with the important decision taken by the AU Summit in Kigali in July 2016 to finance the African Union Peace Fund. We welcome the significant steps since taken, under the leadership of Mr. Kaberuka, to ensure the financing of 25 per cent of the African Union peace support operations budget by 2020. We encourage further sustained progress in this regard. We are ready to continue to look at how the EU, together with the United Nations and the African Union, could contribute to progress in the discussion on sustainable financing and the division of labour for African peacekeeping.

All these issues require further debate and further joint work, which are also in line with the call by the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations, to have the United Nations embrace a future role of not only working alongside regional organizations but also enabling them to share the burden in peace and security matters, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

We look forward to the upcoming fifth AU-EU Summit in Abidjan in the fall. It will be an important moment to build on the results already achieved by the partnerships with the United Nations and the AU by emphasizing the importance of an equal, sustainable and mutually beneficial relationship with Africa in a spirit of shared ownership and responsibility, and guided notably by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the African Union Agenda 2063, and the European Union Global Strategy and European Consensus on Development.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of Algeria.

Mr. Bessedik (Algeria): At the outset, I would like to reiterate my congratulations to the friendly People's Republic of China on assuming the presidency of the Security Council for this month. We wish you every success in implementing your mandate, Sir. The choice of today's open debate is commendable, as are the efforts made in the preparation and circulation of the concept note (S/2017/574, annex).

We would like to commend the Secretary-General for his briefing, as well as the African Union (AU) Commissioner for Peace and Security for his valuable intervention and the very precise and central points he shared with us today on this important subject.

Peace and Security in Africa, as well as its economic, social and cultural development, are among my country's priorities. My country places peace and security in the African continent at the centre of its international policy. This commitment is translated through concrete actions, in particular in the area of conflict resolution. His Excellency the President of the Republic, Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, in his capacity as Coordinator of the African Union for counter-terrorism and violent extremism, presented to the latest Summit a memorandum on the African counter-terrorism strategy, which was introduced on his behalf by our Prime Minister. The memorandum, which will serve as a road map for the continental organization in the context of the fight against terrorism, was unanimously adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the 55 States members of the African Union.

Based on its long-standing experience in the field of mediation, Algeria's contribution to peace in its neighboring countries is also foreseen in the cases of Mali, Libya and the Western Sahara, as well as in its cooperation and coordination with the countries of the Sahel and beyond.

As reaffirmed at the latest Summit of the African Union, held earlier this year in Addis Ababa by the Heads of State and Government of its member States, finding lasting and durable African solutions to African problems and conflicts is a core principle of the African Union. In this regard, many bold initiatives and actions are undertaken to uphold the continent's peace, security and development. Agenda 2063, silencing the guns by 2020, countering terrorism and violent extremism, and the completion of the decolonization process in the continent, among other things, are but a few examples of the many commitments decided together at the level of the Heads of State and Government of the 55 African countries.

As we live in an interconnected world, it is obvious that Africa's contribution to its own security and prosperity is also a contribution to the larger world peace and prosperity. To that end, cooperation with the United Nations and with regional and subregional partners of Africa is of paramount importance. In this regard, we would like to commend the holding of the first annual African Union-United Nations Conference, on 19 April, as well as the conclusion of the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, which states, inter alia, that

> "the United Nations and the African Union have strongly endorsed closer cooperation and coordination in peace and security",

and that both the Security Council and the African Union have stated the need to transform the partnership between the two organizations into one that is predictable, systematic and strategic.

In reality, these latest developments in the relation between the intergovernmental bodies, based on the provisions of Article VIII of the Charter of the United Nations and the Constitutive Act of the African Union, are but a step forward building on previous realizations in this regard. It is worth recalling that the very first resolution on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations is the one adopted in 1963 on cooperation with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and that many peace processes for conflict resolution in Africa conducted by the United Nations were possible because of the contribution of the African Union-OAU, as shown by many examples.

The AU Peace and Security Council, at its 689th meeting held on 30 May, adopted a decision in which it recalled its earlier decisions on the partnership between the African Union and the United Nations in the area of peace and security, including the financing of AU-mandated or -authorized peace support operations undertaken with the authorization of the Security Council. In this decision, the Peace and Security Council recalled also the communiqué that was adopted at its 547th meeting, held in New York on 26 September 2015, which welcomed the modalities proposed by the Chairperson of the Commission on the follow-up steps on the African common position on the review of United Nations peace operations for the provision of United Nations assessed contributions to African Union-mandated or -authorized peace support operations, and agreed that the operationalization of the proposed arrangements for the financing of AU-led peace support operations undertaken with the authorization of the Security Council should be predicated on the following: first, African ownership, as a key factor to the success of peace efforts on the continent; second, reaffirmation of the primary role of the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security and of the role of regional arrangements as elaborated in Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations; third, acknowledgment that support by the United Nations to regional organizations in matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security is

an integral part of collective security as provided for in the Charter of the United Nations; fourth, enhanced strategic partnership with the United Nations, including the development of a framework outlining the steps necessary to activate authorization by the Security Council of AU-led missions to be supported by United Nations assessed contributions; fifth, strengthening the AU's capacity to plan and manage peace support operations; sixth, the enhancement of AU financial oversight mechanisms; and seventh, the strengthening of the AU's human rights due-diligence capabilities, including preventing and combating sexual exploitation and abuses in AU-led peace support operations. My delegation believes that those core points constitute a strong basis for a partnership relation between the two organizations.

In conclusion, we would also like to suggest the following. First, any selective approach in areas of cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and the AU for any question that is related to Africa should be abandoned. Secondly, this suggestion applies also to the annual meeting of the AU Peace and Security Council and the Security Council on the decision-making related to the agenda of consultations. Thirdly, a continuous process of association of the African Union to consultations on any document or action on African issues to be taken by the Security Council or by other United Nations organs should be established. Fourthly, cooperation should be enhanced in the field of training, technology transfers, science and innovation, especially as the African continent has the greatest demographic potential.

Finally, Africa deserves a place in the permanent category of Security Council membership, given the current geopolitical realities in terms of its numerical strength, growing economic power, demographic dynamics and growing role in multilateral forums.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of Indonesia.

Mr. Djani (Indonesia): We would like to thank you, Mr. President, for convening this open debate on a very important topic. We also would like to thank the Secretary-General and the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union for their briefings.

Indonesia associates itself with the statement to be made by the representative of Venezuela on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Indonesia has been with Africa since the beginning. Since the Asian-African Conference in Bandung held over six decades ago in 1955, Indonesia and Africa have been together to achieve equality among all nations and spur independence. With a strong sense of global morality and ethics, Indonesia and Africa have worked hard to establish higher ideals within their countries, as well as to strengthen historic bonds between them.

As a follow-up, with South Africa, Indonesia initiated the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership in 2005 to accelerate cooperation in politics, the economy and socio-culture. This cooperation was reinforced in 2015, and it is being implemented through many multi-faceted bilateral support projects in both Indonesia and Africa. At the same time, we are also undertaking South-South and triangular cooperation as platforms to promote cooperation particularly in the area of capacity-building and technical cooperation.

We are clear that African development must take place without causing any harm to Africa. Guided by that, Indonesia will focus even more on Africa to realize mutually beneficial outcomes in economic development. Nationally, as well as through the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, we are ready to play a greater role to help sustain peace efforts in Africa. This is in addition to our contribution to United Nations peacekeeping in Africa, where almost 2,000 Indonesian peacekeeping troops and police are already participating in eight United Nations peacekeeping operations there.

Indeed, many African countries confront serious peace, security and governance issues. We commend the increasingly important role of the African Union as a strong and principled force for dialogue, peaceful conflict resolution and cordial relations among African countries. Indonesia fully supports the AU Agenda 2063 with its key pillars of a conflict-free Africa, as well as the five thematic priorities of the African Union road map (2016-2020). The commitment by African leaders to finance 25 per cent of the cost of AU peace support operations is another concrete sign of their determination to build sustainable peace.

Yet the challenges — ranging from counter-terrorism, peacebuilding, sustaining peace and political processes to poverty, climate change, capacity-building and governance — cannot all be met properly without adequate and predictable financing, hence the need for international cooperation. Today's question of how to

enhance peace and security capacities of Africa cannot be answered without spelling out how the needed financial and political support will be provided.

Indonesia is therefore pleased that resolution 2320 (2016) and the subsequent report of the Secretary-General (S/2017/454) on options for authorization and support for AU peace support operations have underlined, among others, adequate and predictable finances. Responding to the proposals by the High Representative for the AU Peace Fund, the report of the Secretary-General points to five financing models and various decision-making options to support AU-initiated peace support operations. The report also recognizes rightly that each situation may warrant its own particular solution. It is important now that the report be examined by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, along with the Fifth Committee and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, so that the General Assembly can offer a comprehensive response.

Indonesia stands fully behind the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, which was signed in April. It is vital that all United Nations entities, along with Member States, play their role to help make it a success. Just as ownership, collaboration and cooperation by all national and relevant external stakeholders are essential for the success of sustaining peace in a country, all United Nations and relevant non-United Nations actors must develop synergies around the three United Nations pillars in order to keep the promise to Africa.

For its part, Indonesia will continue to work actively in all United Nations and non-United Nations forums to ensure that robust support is extended to Africa. As an example of that work, in the recent Group of 20 forum in Hamburg, Germany, President Widodo stated that Indonesia will host the Indonesia-Africa Forum in 2018 as a platform to promote equal partnership and greater cooperation with Africa. Indonesia's President's statement is clear: "Africa, you will never walk alone and we shall move forward with Africa".

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of Turkey.

Mr. Begeç (Turkey): We thank China for organizing today's meeting.

Africa plays an important role in maintaining peace and promoting development. However, serious challenges to lasting peace and security in the continent persist. Sustaining peace and security in Africa requires strong cooperation and coordination among local, national and international actors. That is essential for ensuring collective security. In that regard, we take note of resolution 2320 (2016) and the Security Council's intention to take further steps to enhance the relationship between the United Nations and the African Union (AU). Likewise, we welcome the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, which was signed in April.

Turkey believes that peace and security are instrumental for development. In that vein, Turkey supports the African strategy to end all wars in the continent by 2020 as outlined in the Silence the Guns initiative. Furthermore, we value the central role of the African Peace and Security Architecture and the African Governance Structure in promoting peace, security and stability. African Union-led peace operations are critical initiatives to address crises in Africa. Turkey contributes to the efforts of those operations, such as the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur. As a strategic partner of the continent since 2008, Turkey has tried to assist its African friends in their quest for ensuring peace, security and stability. While doing so, we have attached importance to regional ownership.

In line with the principle of African solutions to African problems, Turkey has contributed to the development of the security capacities of African countries, based on the needs and requests of its partners. We pursue a comprehensive and holistic approach that takes into account peacebuilding, development, and humanitarian dimensions of international assistance, including through our diplomatic network of approximately 40 embassies across the continent.

In the peace and security sector, Turkey's assistance and partnership with the African Union and African States are manifold. Turkey has been providing financial assistance to the African Union, including in the field of security, since 2009. In the past decade, Turkey provided over $4 million to AMISOM, the East African Standby Force and the African Peace and Security Architecture.

The Turkish National Police helps to build structural and operational capacities of security institutions through bilateral programs. As a co-Chair of the Horn of Africa Working Group of the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum, Turkey has led a series of bilateral efforts aimed at capacity-building in the field of security and counter-terrorism in the region. In Somalia, we have been carrying out a large-scale project since 2014 in Mogadishu for the reconstruction of the Somali National Army. The Anatolia-Somalia Joint Military Training Centre is expected to become operational by September.

Conflict prevention and mediation are also important aspects of Turkey's engagement with Africa. In our efforts to address the root causes of conflicts, Turkey has been collaborating with the African Union Commission and African partners to realize projects in the fields of trade, rural development, rule of law, infrastructure, health and education. In our approach, we recognize that stabilization and development efforts in Africa cannot succeed if women and youth lack security and access to political, economic, social and judicial resources. In that context, we promote increased political and social partnership, as well as the economic empowerment of women and youth.

In response to recent waves of drought and climate events in sub-Saharan Africa, we have launched nation-wide donation campaigns for assistance. As the Chair of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Summit, we took the initiative to raise awareness for development and humanitarian assistance efforts for East Africa. Implementing the "New Way or Working", which aligns with Turkey's development-oriented humanitarian assistance, is vital in order to reach collective outcomes, while also building resilience and ending need.

Turkey will continue to do its utmost to contribute to peace and security in Africa. We will also constructively participate in the international and regional initiatives to that end.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of Estonia.

Mr. Jürgenson (Estonia): Estonia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the observer of the European Union.

First, we would like to thank the Chinese presidency for convening today's open debate. We welcome the efforts of the African Union (AU) to respond effectively to conflicts and crises in Africa. A lot has been achieved but a lot remains to be done. The international community's role and support in that regard are vital.

We welcome the signing of the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, which took place in April. We also commend the African Union Assembly decision from January 2015 to fund 25 per cent of AU peace-support operations, as well as the subsequent AU Assembly decision to operationalize the AU Peace Fund. Furthermore, the AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa by 2020 is a welcome step forward. It is now crucial to implement all of those important decisions.

In order to silence the guns in Africa, it is imperative to address the root causes of conflict. The AU Agenda 2063 identifies democratic deficit and weak governance as the root causes of conflict and impediments to sustainable development in Africa. Forging synergies between governance and peace and security is crucial in order to address conflicts in a holistic manner. We welcome the African efforts on concrete structural conflict prevention initiatives, early warning, mediation, and preventive diplomacy. We encourage further efforts to that end.

We believe that one of the most important guarantees for the world's sustainable development and the expansion of the influence of democracy and rule of law is mainstreaming gender equality to all areas of life. Women can play a key role in conflict prevention and resolution, peace negotiations and peacebuilding, as well in post-conflict reconstruction.

Furthermore, the AU theme for 2017 is "Harnessing the demographic dividend through investments in the youth", and 2018-27 was just declared the African Decade for Technical, Professional, Entrepreneurial Training and Youth Employment. Africa is the youngest continent on Earth and creating enabling conditions, jobs, education, and the rule of law for young people at home will play a crucial role in silencing the guns in Africa.

Estonia stands ready to work with all partners to enhance capacities and work on solutions, including in the digital sphere for conflict prevention and good governance. That is also something we prioritize in our quest to become a non-permanent member of the Security Council in 2020-2021.

Since we celebrated Nelson Mandela International Day yesterday, let me finish my intervention with a quote from him: "It is easy to break down and destroy. The heroes are those who make peace and build." That is something that we, as the international community, should always keep in mind.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): There are still a number of speakers remaining on my list. Given the lateness of the hour, I intend, with the consent of the members of the Security Council, to suspend the meeing until 3 p.m.

The meeting was suspended at 1.20 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.8006 (Resumption 1)

Security Council

Seventy-second year

Provisional

8006th meeting

Wednesday, 19 July 2017, 3 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Liu Jieyi	(China)
Members:	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Ms. Cardona Moscoso
	Egypt	Mr. Kandeel
	Ethiopia	Mr. Gebrehiwot
	France	Mr. Teisseire
	Italy	Mr. Serpico
	Japan	Ms. Horiuchi
	Kazakhstan	Mr. Victorov
	Russian Federation	Mr. Sergeev
	Senegal	Mr. Faye
	Sweden	Mr. Vaverka
	Ukraine	Mr. Pavlichenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. Begum
	United States of America	Mr. Kris
	Uruguay	Mr. Paolino

Agenda

Peace and security in Africa

Enhancing African capacities in the areas of peace and security

Letter dated 5 July 2017 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2017/574)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council. Corrections* should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

17-22241 (E)

Accessible document Please recycle

The meeting resumed at 3.05 p.m.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I wish to remind all speakers to limit their statements to no more than four minutes in order to enable the Council to carry out its work expeditiously. Delegations with lengthy statements are kindly requested to circulate their texts in writing and to deliver a condensed version when speaking in the Chamber.

I now call on the Minister for Food, Forestry and Horticulture of Ireland.

Mr. Doyle (Ireland): I wish to thank you, Mr. President, for having convened today's important debate.

Ireland aligns itself with the statement made by the observer of the European Union (EU) this morning.

Drawing from the concept note (S/2017/574, annex), I will briefly outline the areas we see as particularly important in enhancing the international community's support for African capabilities in the area of peace and security.

First, I turn to the many calls made for closer United Nations-African Union (AU) partnership for action.

The foundation for an enhanced partnership is well established. The three peace and security reviews of 2015 underscored the need for a deeper strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union. Over the past two years, the Security Council has dealt with the issue, both through its reviews of individual peacekeeping missions and through broader thematic initiatives, such as resolution 2320 (2016), on United Nations-AU cooperation, and the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security. Moreover, we have two major agreements adopted unanimously by all States Members of the United Nations — the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the sustaining peace resolutions — which call on us collectively to see partnerships as the core of our work.

We must take steps to turn this well-established foundation into action. We must ensure that United Nations-AU partnership is something that occurs at an operational level, on a daily basis. That requires ongoing review and cooperation, particularly in the areas of planning and decision-making. We welcome today's debate as an opportunity in that respect.

Secondly, we must learn from the mechanisms we already have. Cooperation between the international community and Africa in the field of peace and security is already ongoing. We have seen it in the evolving engagement between the African Union Mission in Somalia and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia, the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and the efforts of the Peacebuilding Commission to establish closer links with the AU.

We must look beyond that. For example, the work of the EU's African Peace Facility, to which Ireland is glad to contribute, could help inform United Nations support for the operations and priorities of the AU. The engagement of EU regional offices with the AU and African sub-regional organizations should offer some valuable lessons in that regard. In assessments of joint United Nations-AU peacekeeping missions, we must also focus on recording and adapting best practices.

Thirdly, we must explore financing options from within — but also beyond — the budget of the United Nations. It is clear that the current United Nations funding structure for African-led peace operations is in need of reform. The role of the regular budget of the United Nations warrants discussion. The Secretary-General's recent report (S/2017/574) is a first step towards some financing options. There is also the broader question — how can the international community best support Africa to finance its own initiatives for peace and security?

Neither the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development nor the AU Agenda 2063 is directly linked to peace operations. However, if properly implemented and supported, those frameworks can substantially enhance Africa's capacity to self-fund programmes and operations for peace. The AU has already committed to funding 25 per cent of its peace operations by 2020. Additionally, if African States receive the right support for their development efforts, the resulting economic growth could well allow the AU to far surpass this 25 per cent marker in the longer term. Successful development will also contribute to eradicating the root causes of conflict. If we invest in that development, Africa's capacity to fund peace operations will increase, while the need for such operations will decrease.

Fourthly, we must identify mutual opportunities and challenges. African priorities in the area of peace and security are also the priorities of the international community. Implementation of the women and peace

and security agenda, the empowerment of youth as actors of peace, sustainable security sector reform, and more effective conflict prevention are just some of those shared priorities. Stronger partnerships in those areas will therefore be mutually beneficial. The same is true in respect of mutual challenges.

As noted earlier by the EU observer, the Secretary General's report highlights the importance of compliance and oversight, particularly in the areas of human rights and conduct and discipline. Those are critical concerns in all peace operations, and ones we, as a troop-contributing country, take extremely seriously.

Finally, we welcome the AU's efforts to put in place effective mechanisms to ensure the respect for human rights in all of its missions and encourage further progress in their implementation. Joint standards for reporting, accountability and protection are critical to ensuring robust oversight of missions.

I thank you again, Mr. President, for holding today's debate and for giving me the opportunity to participate in the discussion on this important issue by sharing Ireland's perspective.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of New Zealand.

Ms. Roxburgh (New Zealand): We join others today in thanking the Secretary-General and Commissioner Chergui for their briefing. As a member of the Security Council when resolution 2320 (2016) was adopted, New Zealand was strongly supportive of the United Nations and African Union (AU) taking a more structured, complementary and integrated approach to tackling the challenges faced by the continent.

We welcome recent developments, including the Secretary-General's May report (S/2017/454) and will focus today's remarks on two priority areas: making meaningful African Union-United Nations engagement an everyday habit and fixing financing for African-led peace operations.

First, while formal engagement between the Council and the AU Peace and Security Council is important, in our view it is through strengthening informal engagement that we will see the greatest value. Regular and constructive exchanges on specific issues would contribute to a deeper understanding of perspectives, a greater unity of purpose and, ultimately, a stronger partnership. Overall, we need to see more cooperation through joint assessment missions, information exchanges, training and secondments, but every Council member can also individually help make this change simply by thinking and acting a little more broadly and strategically.

For our part, while New Zealand was on the Council, we supported the inaugural elected-ten Peace and Security Council of the African Union meeting in Addis Ababa at the start of 2015. With Spain, we met with the Chair of the AU Council at the start of our presidencies to discuss the joint agendas of each body. During our presidency, after the Council's visit to South Sudan, we co-hosted — with the AU Commission — Council members and senior United Nations officials, including Special Representative Menkerios, at an off-site meeting to discuss the United Nations-African Union strategic framework. Those actions did not require formal Council decisions or consensus. We would urge current Council members, both individually and collectively, to take similar steps and make meaningful engagement with the AU an everyday habit.

Secondly, we need to fix the fundamental issue of financing for African-led peace operations. That will not be easy, but we must agree on a new, more predictable financing model. Fragmented, ad hoc arrangements for each new AU-led mission are simply not sustainable. Delays lead to longer, more expensive conflicts, and less effective missions exact a cost in lives.

In his report, the Secretary-General laid out pragmatic options for the Council's consideration. We support those options as well as the AU decision to have 25 per cent of the cost of AU-led peace operations financed by African States. We also are supportive of utilizing United Nations assessed contributions to finance AU-led missions in defined circumstances. The Council should also adopt, in principle, the Secretary-General's proposal of an African Union-United Nations jointly developed budget.

New Zealand stands ready to assist, including through lending our support to any resolutions that may come to the Fifth Committee, the General Assembly or the Council, but we urge the Council to take action as a matter of priority. In return, the Council will get a strengthened partner to assist in tackling shared challenges — likely at a significantly lower cost than the United Nations — and will make an important and practical, contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of India.

Mr. Akbaruddin (India): I thank you, Sir, for bringing much needed focus to an issue which touches on the ethos and character of how we do business here at the United Nations. As new and diverse forms of threats — some clear and present, others only dimly perceived — test our collective resolve and call into question the validity of existing mechanisms, it is time to assess if we can work together on what is in our collective interest. The briefings today have provided insight in that regard.

Africa is unique, as the whole continent is committed to working together on the entire spectrum of issues, including peace and security, through the African Union. Regional and subregional organizations probably enjoy the advantages of language and situational awareness and can respond more quickly as they have a better understanding of the complexities of the situation. Africa's wish to play a leading role in addressing African problems is, therefore, a work in progress and needs to be supported. However, issues of capacity and resource constraints do exist. On the other hand, the maintenance of international peace and security is one of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. It also entails the collective responsibility of Member States to extend mutual support for strengthening capacities and capabilities to address threats to international peace and security. I shall focus on three issues.

First of all, it is a well-known fact that despite the deployment of large peacekeeping contingents in Africa, their record of success has been mixed, somewhat reflecting the complexities of geopolitics, political will and the capacities and resources supporting peacekeeping efforts. We should analyse various missions for the important lessons to be drawn from them. India has participated in most peacekeeping operations in Africa and is ready to contribute to any future such operations based on our limited capabilities and capacities.

As part of our efforts to share experiences in strengthening the capacities of African peacekeepers, we have focused on human-resources development and capacity-building. India has worked both bilaterally and in tripartite partnerships to build the defence capabilities of several African States. As we speak, as part of our trilateral cooperation with the United States, a United Nations peacekeeping course for African partners based on the concept of training the trainers is ongoing in New Delhi, with the participation of officials from 18 African nations who are deployed in various African peacekeeping training institutions.

India is also committed to promoting gender equality and sensitivity. Our 125-member all-women police contingent in Liberia was the first such deployment in a United Nations peacekeeping mission. The presence of a female police unit has inspired several women there to come forward to join the police force and participate in maintaining law and order. We should make such role models essential ingredients of every United Nations peacekeeping operation with police deployments.

Secondly, the importance of comprehensive sustainable development, inclusive economic growth and political processes in preventing conflict and implementing effective peacebuilding efforts is broadly recognized. The adoption by the United Nations of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union Agenda 2063 represent a recognition of the fact that the key factors for sustaining peace are cross-cutting and interlinked. That requires long-term commitment and sustained investment, including vastly expanded funding.

The identical resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture adopted last year by the General Assembly (70/262) and the Security Council (2282 (2016)) defined the concept of sustaining peace and called for the work of the Peacebuilding Commission to be strengthened. There has been no agreement, alas, on increasing the funding for the Commission to even 1 per cent of the annual total for peacekeeping operations. As a member of the Commission since its inception, India has so far contributed more than $5 million to the Peacebuilding Fund.

More substantively, as part of its tradition of South-South solidarity in development cooperation and working within the limits of its capacities and capabilities, India has extended concessional credit worth $10 billion and doubled the numbers of scholarships for African students to 50,000 over a five-year period. India's partnership with Africa is based on a cooperation model that is responsive to African countries' needs. It is demand-driven, free of conditions and provided in a non-prescriptive manner.

We firmly believe that a commitment to supporting peacebuilding is crucial to sustainable peace in Africa.

Thirdly, the ever-expanding terror networks have endangered peace and security in the African region in unprecedented ways. Time and again, from Boko Haram to Al-Shabaab, they have shown themselves to be ever more connected to other such networks all over the world. They pose a threat to the broader international community in many ways. The United Nations response to such threats continues to be unsatisfactory. The price of such indifference is immeasurable. It is time for a strong, effective and coherent response that reflects the international community's collective commitment to defeating the scourge of terrorism.

The complex nature of modern conflicts makes it necessary to respond to the changing needs of our times. In the African Union, the United Nations has a willing partner. The question that the Council should answer is whether it is ready to do what is required to make a difference where it matters most. I hope that today's discussions lead to specific steps in that direction.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of Germany.

Mr. Schulz (Germany): I would like to thank China for convening today's important debate.

Germany aligns itself with the statement delivered earlier today by the observer of the European Union (EU).

I would like pay tribute to African nations' contribution to peacekeeping in Africa in both African-led and United Nations missions. Germany salutes the courage of all the soldiers and police who participate in what are often extremely dangerous missions, whether in Somalia, the Lake Chad region, Central Africa or the Sahel. With regard to the Sahel region, Germany supports the initiative of the Group of Five for the Sahel to deploy a joint task force in the fight against terrorism.

We welcome the progress that our African partners have made in developing and implementing Africa's peace and security architecture. We also support the initiative of the African Union (AU) on increasing the financial independence of its peace operations and strengthening the financial basis of the African Peace Fund. And we were pleased to see the United Nations and AU sign the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security. But it is clear that further strengthening the African peace and security architecture and developing the AU-United Nations partnership in the area of peace and security will require great efforts on all sides. They can count on Germany's support during that process.

I would like to focus briefly on a few areas where Germany supports its African partners in the field of peace and security. First, for many years, Germany — bilaterally, in the context of the EU and through the United Nations — has supported African partners in preparing military and police units for peacekeeping tasks. We have worked with the AU and other regional and subregional organizations to address capacity shortages and have provided financial and technical assistance. For instance, we offer training to African peacekeepers through the Kofi Annan Peacekeeping Training Centre, as well as through tailor-made programmes in areas such as pre-deployment training for specific missions.

Secondly, Germany has put a strategic focus on crisis-prevention and stabilization measures aimed at supporting political processes and resolving conflicts by creating a secure environment and improving living conditions. For instance, together with the countries of the Lake Chad region and other partners, including the United Nations, we have launched the Oslo Consultative Group on Stabilization and Prevention, which will identify priorities and coordinate stabilization measures. Its first meeting at the senior official level will take place in Berlin in September. Germany also assists African partners in the areas of early warning, prevention and mediation activities. We are an active partner in mediation efforts conducted under the umbrella of the African Union in, for example, Sudan and South Sudan. We are happy to be supporting the African Union's newly established mediation support unit. In 2017, Germany will spend approximately €100 million on prevention and stabilization measures in Africa.

Thirdly, the African Union has shown strong leadership in putting the agenda on women and peace and security into action. Germany is proud to support those efforts, including notably the recent establishment of a network of African women leaders. The network's launch in New York just a few weeks ago brought together a large number of eminent women from Africa's political and public sectors and civil society. We are excited by the momentum that this initiative has developed. We firmly believe that women's access to

political leadership, particularly their participation in peace processes, leads to better results.

Fourthly, combating the proliferation of small arms and light weapons is a vital ingredient in both national and regional stabilization strategies and should be integrated into United Nations peacekeeping missions from the start. Among others, Germany has started a Group of Seven initiative in the extended Sahel jointly with the African Union, with the aim of promoting comprehensive coordination in controlling small arms and light weapons.

In conclusion, we remain committed to supporting the African Union, other regional and subregional organizations and our African partners in further enhancing African capacities in the area of peace and security.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of Denmark.

Mr. Petersen (Denmark): I am honoured to speak today on behalf of the Nordic countries: Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and my own country, Denmark.

The threats posed by terrorism, radicalization and instability constitute a challenge to all countries. Addressing them requires strong cooperation between all the parties involved. African countries are on the front lines in meeting those challenges, along with their partners, including the Nordic countries. The African countries shoulder their part of the burden when the African Union (AU) assumes responsibility for peace operations, along with regional economic communities; when African countries join hands to create multinational forces, like the Multinational Joint Task Force to fight Boko Haram in the Lake Chad region and the Group of Five for the Sahel joint force to combat terrorism and transnational crime in the Sahel; and when African countries make vital contributions to United Nations peacekeeping operations to keep them engaged, despite very complex situations.

In the Nordic countries, we welcome those efforts to meet the challenge of terrorism, radicalization and instability. We believe the strengthened cooperation on peace and security between the AU and the United Nations is key to enhancing our efforts and address the challenges. The next step is to ensure predictable and sustainable support to AU operations. The report of the Secretary-General (S/2017/454) issued on 26 May sets out useful options for support and joint decision-making. The Nordic countries strongly encourage the Security Council to give its consent to use, on a case-by-case basis, United Nations assessed contributions to finance AU peace support missions mandated by the Security Council. That will also entail close United Nations involvement, as highlighted in the report of the Secretary-General.

We welcome the signing in April of the United Nations-AU Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security. The Nordic countries are particularly encouraged by the emphasis on prevention and root causes, strong themes in our countries' long-standing partnerships and cooperation with African partners. The Nordic countries have supported, among other things, African mediation and early-warning capabilities.

When the rule of law prevails and the voice of the people is heard, conflict can be avoided. The peaceful transition in The Gambia demonstrated that. Together with Economic Community of West African States, a number of African countries stepped in with decisive support for a peaceful solution for the people of The Gambia. That support is an important signal of African unity and regional ownership of a process leading to a more prosperous and democratic continent.

Accountability and inclusive peace processes lead to better and more sustainable results. In the peace processes where women and young people are included and exert real influence, peace agreements are more likely to be reached and the peace is more likely to last. Where women are involved in peacekeeping, the operations gain more trust from communities and respond more effectively to the needs of the local population. The Nordic countries support the AU and many African countries in their endeavours to train more women, and to ensure that their police forces are responsive to the needs of women.

Enhancing African capabilities in the area of peace and security is a key contribution to regional and global security, and it is a key contribution to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Nordic countries are supporters of the efforts of the AU in that regard. We welcome a strengthening the peace and security architecture of the AU and we hope it will bring greater coherence and high-level focus to such important issues.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of Kenya.

Mr. Kamau (Kenya): We thank you, Sir, for convening this important debate and for circulating a detailed concept note (S/2017/574, annex) to guide us. I take the opportunity to congratulate China for its elevation to the presidency of the Council for July and commend you, Sir, for the manner by which you have conducted its affairs.

We thank the Secretary-General for his detailed, informative briefing on the issue and previous speakers for their illuminating interventions, and we welcome the statement by Mr. Smail Chergui, Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union (AU).

Kenya fully supports current efforts to strengthen the cooperation and partnership between the African Union and the United Nations on peace and security in Africa. The cooperation is anchored in the Addis Ababa Declaration of 2016, which inter alia, established a ten-year capacity-building programme for the African Union, modalities for collaboration between the two organizations and the establishment of a framework and institutions to enhance the partnership. That is how the United Nations Support Office for the African Union, the annual joint consultative meetings, the A3 coordination group in the Security Council, the joint framework between the United Nations Support Office for the African Union and the Peace and Security Department of the African Union, and the Joint Task Force on Peace and Security all came into being.

Now more than ever before, both institutions, the United Nations and the AU, have achieved more coordinated response and complementary action in dealing with evolving challenges to peace and security on the continent, ranging from violent conflict, humanitarian crises, violent extremism and terrorism. However, much more needs to be done to tackle the challenges, capitalize on available opportunities and consolidate the gains achieved so far.

Kenya believes that a well-funded and efficient African Peace and Security Architecture is not only an essential African priority, but also a great global strategic necessity. We would like to stress that the four financing options indicated in the report of the Secretary-General (S/2017/454) on options for authorization and support for African Union peace support operations, namely, subvention to exceptional or emergency circumstances, joint financing of a jointly developed budget, the establishment of a United Nations support office and the joint financing of a hybrid mission all provide a solid basis for further deepening the existing relationship. We urge the Security Council to endorse and take the necessary steps towards the financing of the African Union peace support operations. We also need to be open to explore other options to ensure predictable, reliable and sustainable funding for the peace support operations of the African Union.

Deepening the AU-United Nations cooperation to enhance the African capabilities in the peace and security sphere is only one of the necessary instruments to achieve sustainable peace in Africa. But, more needs to be done to harness available opportunities to achieve sustainable peace and development that will complement the existing mechanisms for cooperation. We believe that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is key to sustaining peace in Africa. It is important to harness international cooperation in order to provide adequate means of implementation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. This is how quality health and education, decent jobs and infrastructure and good governance and democracy will be entrenched in Africa to enable it reap the dividends of peace through sustained economic development.

Kenya believes that important initiatives such as the transformative Chinese One Belt, One Road on infrastructure; Power Africa on clean, renewable energy by the United States; the new German investment compacts for Africa on trade, peace and governance; and others are solid opportunities to create solid partnerships for achieving rapid implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals that would ensure sustainable peace and development in Africa.

Similarly, the United Nations, including the Council, should be at the forefront of ensuring that illicit financial flows from Africa, which bleed over $203 billion out of the continent, exacerbated by a few banks in the developed world, is curtailed to ensure African resources remain in Africa to fight poverty, disease and ignorance and thus, sustain the peace.

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate Kenya's support for current efforts to enhance African capabilities in the area of peace and security through the strategic partnership between the African Union and the United Nations. We shall continue to support peace efforts by the African Union as attested in our role within the African Union Military Observer Mission in Somalia in Somalia.

We shall continue to collaborate with other African countries to strengthen conflict prevention, management and resolution capacity of the African Union regional entities, such as the East African Community, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region of Africa and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, all of which complement the cooperation between United Nations and the AU in peace and security. We support and pursue these efforts for we are convinced that our stability and economic well-being is closely tied to peace, stability and economic well-being of the rest of the continent and, indeed, of the entire the world.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of Namibia.

Mr. Gertze (Namibia): I thank you, Mr. President, for convening this open debate, which offers the opportunity to share views on peace and security in Africa. Let me also thank our briefers for their invaluable contribution to this debate. Your country's focus on this important topic during your presidency is highly appreciated.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

Namibia applauds the continued cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union (AU) and particularly with regional and subregional organizations on the continent. We also welcome enhanced cooperation in peacekeeping in Africa. My delegation wishes to stress the need for the AU and the United Nations to outline their roles clearly according to their comparative advantages. Partnership between the United Nations and the AU offices, while essential, cannot substitute for ownership by Africa of its challenges. It is both pragmatic and right to seek out African views on conflict resolution and conflict prevention through formal and informal sessions between the two organizations.

We wish to underscore the important role that regional and subregional arrangements and agencies can play in the promotion of peace and security, as well as economic and social development.

In the wake of the historic adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change in 2015, peace and security have to underpin the delivery of an environment in which the development agenda can flourish.

The African Union has demonstrated its ability to take the lead in the effective resolution of conflicts. Over the years, the African Union member States have been able to step in promptly to help maintain peace and security. Namibia remains committed to contributing to peacekeeping operations. Indeed it is the presence of African peacekeepers that has provided international peace operations with political legitimacy on the continent.

The African Peace and Security Architecture road map for the period 2016-2020 also remains essential to provide legitimacy and effectiveness on the ground. We have noted that the organs of the Architecture are increasingly shouldering their responsibility under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations.

African mediation and rapid response efforts are two areas that rely on support by partners such as the United Nations. In order to make the African Peace and Security Architecture more effective under the current challenging economic and other circumstances, it is important to make full use of available expertise and knowledge on the ground and at regional level. It is essential that actions taken are based upon African programmes already developed at high-level forums. These programmes speak directly to the needs identified by Africans themselves, are often gender sensitive, and will never be seen as imposed from the outside, and thus not succeed.

Namibia values the role that the United Nations Office to the African Union plays by providing technical advice on matters of capacity-building and operational support. However, further efforts to build institutional capacity would be crucial to bringing coherence to the consolidation of peace in Africa.

I would like to applaud the recent appointment by the Secretary-General of former German President Horst Köhler as his Personal Envoy for Western Sahara. We call on all parties to offer their cooperation and support in order to see genuine progress and resolution of this long standing conflict.

Finally, Namibia welcomes progress made in increasing the participation of women in leadership roles towards resolving conflicts. Indeed, it is imperative to integrate gender perspectives into institutional reforms

in post-conflict countries. We encourage Member States in post-conflict situations to mainstream gender perspectives in institutional reform for the protection of women's rights and call for the incorporation of women in mediation processes.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the observer of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Mr. Ojeda: I thank you, Mr. President, for giving the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) the opportunity to contribute to this important debate. We commend the debate's emphasis on Africa's global importance. Forty per cent of ICRC resources are invested in Africa, and we place great value on our partnerships with African Governments.

We will focus on two key drivers of peace and security in Africa: an end to the violence, which damages development, and the significance of basic services, which make development possible.

The median age in Africa today is 19. Urbanization is expanding and land is still plentiful. The African Union (AU) is achieving increasing traction as a regional organization with clear development vision and capacity. Africa's opportunity must not be undermined by the destruction brought by armed conflict. Peace and security is the first priority of African development. We urge the Council to make every effort to support African States to end African conflicts.

But where there is no peace there must be greater respect for international humanitarian law. Changing the behaviour of many parties to conflict in Africa is essential if African people are to keep hold of the land, health, resources, businesses and education they need to achieve the AU's Agenda 2063. International humanitarian law is increasingly prioritized in Africa. Every day we work as partners with African authorities in individual States and at the AU, enhancing their capacities to respect and ensure greater respect for international humanitarian law.

Progress is clear in the development of African armed forces, and in the commitment of the AU and its member States to high standards in the mandates, rules of engagement and conduct of African peace operations. Putting these policies into action in Africa's complex operational environments is always a challenge. Africa and its military partners need to cooperate continuously to solve problems on the ground and ensure compliance with international humanitarian law.

Meeting people's need for basic services is also key to peace and security. Infrastructure and services are vital to deliver African development. Too often, schools, health facilities, water sources and power facilities are destroyed or rendered unsafe in armed conflicts across the continent. These services must be kept safe and functioning for Africa's people. We work constantly with authorities in Africa to ensure the protection and continuity of basic services but humanitarian aid cannot do this alone. This is why we are pleased to be working with the World Bank in Somalia.

Development actors must find ways to enhance State capacity to maintain basic services during conflict. Here, the Chinese Government often sets an important example. The Kampala Convention is a model for supporting internally displaced persons.

I hope our two suggestions add value. They are particularly important today, when millions of Africans face the double vulnerability of armed conflict and drought.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of the Republic of Korea.

Mr. Hahn Choonghee (Republic of Korea): At the outset, please allow me to join the previous speakers in commending the initiative and leadership of China to convene today's important meeting.

Ensuring peace and security on the African continent is a high priority of the international community. United Nations peacekeeping operations in Africa account for the largest portions of both the budget and personnel of United Nations peacekeeping operations as a whole. At the same time, the Security Council has been scaling-up efforts to strengthen its strategic partnership with the African Union (AU). This partnership is duly recognized as a model regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations. In addition, the African Union is increasingly serving as a first responder to crises in Africa before United Nations missions take over, as seen with the African missions in Burundi, the Sudan, Mali and the Central African Republic. The United Nations and the African Union have also deployed a landmark hybrid operation in Darfur.

As a result of such joint efforts, we are achieving notable progress in securing peace and security in

Africa. However, many countries on the continent still face daunting challenges that have become increasingly complex, transboundary and asymmetrical in nature. These include terrorism and violent extremism, transnational organized crime, climate change and migration crises, among others. It is becoming apparent that the United Nations simply cannot tackle such multifaceted challenges alone. The United Nations needs to work with all relevant stakeholders, including Member States, regional and subregional organizations, international financial institutions, the private sectors and civil society.

Against this backdrop, I would now like to highlight the following three points to provide a way forward in our collective efforts to enhance the capacities of African countries in promoting peace and security.

First, the United Nations should respect the ownership of African countries in maintaining peace and security on the continent, while helping them, the African Union and subregional organizations to scale-up their relevant capacities. At the operational level, the African Union has proven its commitment and effectiveness through its peacekeeping operations. Furthermore, the AU has been moving forward to show its potential as a reliable partner at the strategic level too, as exemplified by its pledge to finance 25 per cent of its future peace operations through the African Union Peace Fund and the Silencing the Guns by 2020 initiative.

We must also highlight the importance of subregional organizations, such as the Economic Community of West African States, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the East African Community, given that they have played critical roles in mediation, prevention and the resolution of tensions. However, while our African partners should take the lead in promoting their own peace and security, the international community must help with predictable and sustainable resources. In that regard, the Republic of Korea has steadily increased its financial contribution to the African Union through the AU Peace Fund and the Korea-AU Cooperation Fund in recent years.

Secondly, we need to pursue a comprehensive and integrated approach in order to achieve sustainable peace and development in Africa. The challenges we collectively face are difficult to solve with static ideas and singular responses. Unless the root causes are addressed through all stages of crises and conflicts, we will not achieve lasting peace and prosperity. In this connection, the concept of sustaining peace, as defined and elaborated by the historic twin General Assembly and Security Council resolutions 70/261 and 2282 (2016) in April last year, offers a way forward.

At the same time, the activities of the diverse stakeholders — including the African Union, the African Development Bank, the World Bank, civil societies and the private sectors — need to be better implemented in a coordinated and collaborative manner to ensure synergy moving forward. In this context, the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) can play an important role by using its convening power to mobilize and coordinate various stakeholders. As the Chair of the PBC this year, the Republic of Korea has been working to proactively leverage its unique convening power to help The Gambia and the countries in the Sahel region to build and sustain peace in their respective countries and region. In addition, we have been making efforts to strengthen the PBC's partnership with international financial institutions, including the World Bank.

As part of such efforts, recently a PBC delegation visited the World Bank in Washington, D.C., and the PBC annual session in 2017 focused on partnership for financing and peace, and came up with an agreement to hold a dialogue with the World Bank on an annual basis. The Republic of Korea will continue to step up these and other efforts throughout its tenure as the PBC Chair, including a visit to the African Union later this year.

Thirdly, we must bolster our efforts to listen to the voices and grievances of local communities. As people living in rural areas suffer disproportionally from the instability caused by violent extremism, armed groups and ethnic clashes, we must do more to amplify their voices and note their perspectives and concerns. Indeed, if vulnerable people are not heard, protected, or provided with the prerequisite levels of support to ensure that they have every opportunity to thrive, they are more easily at risk of falling into the exploitative hands of armed groups, or being indoctrinated with extremism and terrorism. In this regard, I would like to encourage the United Nations to further strengthen its strategic engagements with local communities. In fact, the Republic of Korea is financially contributing to the development of a planning framework for improved engagement of communities and other actors by peacekeeping missions.

Before closing, I would like to reiterate that the Republic of Korea is committed to working closely with the United Nations, African Member States and organizations, as well as other key stakeholders, in order to enhance peace and security in Africa.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of South Africa.

Mr. Mminele (South Africa): Allow me to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of July. I also thank you and the Chinese delegation for convening this timely open debate on peace and security in Africa, under the theme "Enhancing African capacities in the areas of peace and security".

South Africa aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

This debate is timely as it follows immediately on the successful conclusion of the twenty-ninth African Union (AU) Summit in Addis Ababa, where the African Union considered issues that are of utmost importance to the continent, including the African Union's aspirations outlined in its Agenda 2063. It is important for the United Nations at all levels to work closely with the African Union in achieving our common security and developmental objectives, as encapsulated in the African Union Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It should be noted that the Summit recommitted Africa to the AU Master Road Map of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020. It also declared the month of September of every year until 2020 as African Amnesty Month for the surrender and collection of illegally owned weapons and arms, in line with African and international best practice.

At the outset, South Africa recognizes that in terms of the Charter of the United Nations, the Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. However, as we have frequently reiterated, it is often regional organizations such as the AU that are the first responders to conflicts and deploy early in order to stabilize conflict situations, thereby creating a more favourable environment for the United Nations to deploy and for peace processes to start.

This is by no means accidental, as regional organizations are often better positioned to understand the root causes of armed conflicts owing to their knowledge of the region. This advantage benefits all efforts to influence the prevention and resolution of conflicts. Furthermore, regional bodies have a comparative advantage due to their collective political resolve to address a conflict situation and to prevent regional instability. It is therefore imperative for the United Nations to work closely with the AU and the various regional economic organizations on the continent to achieve sustainable peace on the African continent. That would necessitate not just collaboration on peacekeeping but also in building capacity in mediation and peacemaking efforts, as well as post-conflict peacebuilding and reconstruction.

President Alpha Condé, in his capacity as Chairperson of the AU, has appointed my President, President Zuma, to promote partnership between the AU and the United Nations towards enhancing African capabilities in peacekeeping operations. In that regard, South Africa continues to encourage a strong collaborative relationship between the United Nations and the AU. In that regard, my delegation would like to highlight the following four points.

First, the financing of AU peacekeeping operations remains one of the biggest challenges for peacekeeping on the continent. As far back as resolution 1809 (2008), adopted in 2008, the Council recognized the need to enhance the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing regional organizations when they undertake peacekeeping under a United Nations mandate. South Africa believes that AU peace operations, authorized by the Security Council, must be adequately funded and resourced. In that regard, we support the AU call for the use of United Nations assessed contributions to secure predictable, sustainable and flexible financing for AU peace operations authorized by the Security Council.

Secondly, the mutually reinforcing relationship between the United Nations and the AU should extend beyond the period of conflict, to critical areas such as peacebuilding, and post-conflict reconstruction and development within the paradigm of security sector reform. The peace, security and development nexus underscores the importance of peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction and development in post-conflict settings. That is in support of strengthening the resilience of countries through a process of institutional capacity building to mitigate the risk of a

relapse into conflict. The African Peace and Security Architecture also provides the continent with conflict prevention, resolution and management measures, as well as mechanisms for post-conflict peacebuilding and reconstruction. South Africa therefore calls on the international community to strengthen the capacity of the African Peace and Security Architecture to deliver to the necessary assistance and support to the affected countries to ensure long-term, sustainable peace.

Thirdly, we welcome the signing of the joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security by both organizations this year. The Framework elevates cooperation between the two organizations to a higher level. The continent continues to experience challenges, particularly in combating terrorism, piracy, transnational organized crime and human trafficking. We hope that continued cooperation between the AU Commission and the Secretariat, characterized by mutual respect and understanding, will thus expand and strengthen cooperation on many other issues that the two organizations face.

Finally, we are pleased that many of our proposals are aligned with the nine areas of reform outlined by the Secretary-General in a statement made in early April. In that statement, the Secretary-General committed the Secretariat to enhancing its technical cooperation and capacity building partnership with the African Union Commission to further strengthen the partnership between the two organizations, especially regarding political issues and peacekeeping operations on the continent. He also called for that partnership to be based on solid, predictable funding, including for peacekeeping missions of the African Union, supported by the Security Council.

In conclusion, South Africa emphasizes that debates of this nature should result in practical steps aimed towards strengthening institutional collaboration between the Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of Belgium.

Mr. Pecsteen de Buytswerve (Belgium) (*spoke in French*): I thank you, Sir, for having convened today's debate on peace and security in Africa.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union and would like to make the following remarks in its national capacity.

Although the number of crises and conflicts in Africa on the Security Council's agenda remain regrettably high, it is also true that over the past few decades, peace has been restored in many of the continent's regions. The United Nations, the African Union and many regional organizations played an important role in that achievement.

There is no single model for cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union; there are various situations. options and types of support possible, as demonstrated by past experience and the models highlighted by the Secretary-General in his May report (S/2017/454). We eagerly await additional proposals from the Secretary-General on reforms in the areas of peace and security, which should focus in particular on achieving greater efficiency on the ground. We also commend the efforts of the African Union to strengthen accountability mechanisms for monitoring human rights, conduct and discipline within its own operations.

The Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership on Peace and Security, signed on 19 April, is broad-based and ambitious. It focuses on sustainable peace and covers all aspects of conflict cycles. We believe that it is important to maintain that broad-based approach. I would like to underscore three points that we believe deserve particular attention.

The first point is mediation. The African Union and subregional organizations play an increasingly important role in the area of mediation — and that is a good thing. We believe that the region is often ideally placed either to play the role of mediator or to contribute to national or international mediation efforts. In February, Belgium organized an international conference on mediation. It hopes to continue the discussion on effective mediation and intends to organize another event in the coming months that will focus on mediation efforts in Africa.

The second point relates to human rights. The year 2016 marked the African Year of Human Rights. It is essential that operations mandated by the Security Council respect the highest standards of the African Union and the United Nations in the area of human rights, conduct, discipline and monitoring. We

commend the commitments and efforts made in that regard. The United Nations and the African Union cold also strengthen their partnership in that area.

The third point relates to young people. More than 60 per cent of Africa's population is under 25. Young people are the future and investing in them is crucial for lasting peace. Education, training and employment are crucial to preventing radicalization and to shielding them from being influenced by hate speech and recruited by violent groups. It is therefore important to continue to invest in young people and children during conflict to prevent an entire generation from being lost once conflicts end. As the Peacebuilding Commission's focal point on youth, Belgium continues to attach great importance to that issue.

The lofty goals of the United Nations-African Union partnership must translate to progress in operations on the ground. In that regard, Belgium welcomes the adoption of resolution 2359 (2017) that covers the establishment of the Group of Five for the Sahel (G-5 Sahel) joint force, at the request of the African Union. This is an important stage in the implementation of the Joint United Nations-AU Framework for an Enhanced Partnership on Peace and Security. Alongside and in line with the efforts of the United Nations in the region, the G-5 Sahel joint force is a security initiative that the region needs to counter terrorism. Belgium, along with other countries, expects considerable action to be taken to allow for a speedy launch of that initiative.

The establishment of the G-5 Sahel joint force is an opportunity to be seized upon in order to move fully towards the development of a joint framework for planning, operations coordination, reporting and monitoring, as stipulated in the Secretary-General's report. It will be necessary to develop the necessary capacities in that regard. The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) will have to work closely with the armies of the G-5 countries. The two entities will need to enter into a genuine partnership while respecting the same norms, including in the area of human rights. Besides ensuring the command of MINUSMA and that of the European Union Training Mission in Mali, my country is committed to promoting effective cooperation among the African Union, the G-5, the United Nations and the European Union. Each has its own added value and, through optimally using the specificities of each organization, the response of the international community will be at its the most effective.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of Portugal.

Mr. Mendonça e Moura (Portugal): I thank you, Sir, for convening this very timely and relevant open debate. It is with great satisfaction that I note the increasing number of Security Council meetings and respective outcomes on the important topic of peace and security in Africa, which is of concern to us all.

My statement is aligned with the one delivered earlier by the observer of the European Union (EU), but I would like to add some additional remarks in my national capacity.

The growing number of challenges that the African continent faces — from security to development — should be addressed through international cooperation, while respecting both national and regional ownership. In addition to a number of demographic challenges — such as the large and increasing number of young people, who are often unemployed, and a staggering number of internally displaced people and refugees — the fact is that the instability in Africa is being fuelled by a variety of complex factors, such as terrorism and the proliferation of violent extremism, piracy, economic hardship, social and food insecurity and political unpredictability. Those are threats to international peace and security, thereby requiring a strong and coordinated response at all levels whereby the intrinsic and mutually reinforcing relationship between peace and security and sustainable development must be borne in mind. Tackling those issues is as important for Africa's prosperity as it is for the its security.

In that regard, we believe that it is crucial to effectively support the work of the African Union and the regional economic communities alongside efforts at the national and the community levels. Moreover, it is necessary to contemplate new cooperation dynamics between the African Union and the United Nations, as well as with other relevant partners. We welcome the steps already taken in that direction, as exemplified most recently by resolution 2320 (2016) and the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, signed in April. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the personal engagement of Secretary-General Guterres in that pursuit.

Portugal is deeply committed to the promotion of peace and security in Africa and, in that regard, to working closely with the United Nations, the

African Union and subregional organizations. We are currently participating in the peacekeeping operations in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali and in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic. At the EU level, we are also engaged in the important areas of training and capacitating, namely, in the European Union training missions in Somalia, Mali and the Central African Republic, and in the European Union capacity-building missions in Mali and the Niger. We are firmly committed to continuing to do so.

While it is paramount that the African Union carries on with its efforts in capacity-building in the areas of peace and security, we must acknowledge that the current level of international support for African-led multinational peace and security programmes is not enough. The way forward will have to involve the diversification of funding. We believe that positive steps in that direction include the establishment of the African Peace Fund and Mr. Kaberuka's report, as well as the report of the Secretary-General (S/2017/454) on options for authorizing and supporting African Union peace and support operations. Any new financing models should be predictable and sustainable, thereby ensuring lasting funds for the foreseeable future. At the same time, we need to ensure that any such financing solutions do not have a negative impact on any other key areas, such as financing African development.

Conflict prevention and sustaining peace must remain the key priorities. While sparing no effort in addressing the multidimensional challenges with regard to peace and security that the African continent faces, there should be a determined commitment to an integrated and systemic approach to long-lasting peace. The international community should focus on helping develop strong and sustainable national and local institutions, and cementing democracy, the rule of law, respect for human rights and security for its citizens. It is therefore essential that Africa remains a top priority at the United Nations, namely, here in the Security Council. African security and prosperity is essential both for Africans and the whole world.

Lastly, I should like to add a personal note by saying that I am very happy to be able to mark my final intervention in the Security Council with a statement on Africa, as it is very close to my country and own heart.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of Bangladesh.

Mr. Bin Momen (Bangladesh): Bangladesh thanks the Chinese presidency for organizing this open debate. We also thank the Secretary-General and the African Union (AU) Commissioner for their shared vision for enhancing African capacities for peace and security.

Bangladesh values its association with Africa and cherishes a number of instances in which its engagement has played an instrumental role in achieving sustainable peace on the ground. In our role as spokesperson for the least developed countries, we have consistently advocated for the particular needs and challenges of the countries affected by, or emerging from, conflicts in Africa. Bangladesh therefore feels encouraged to see the AU assuming enhanced responsibility and ownership so as to prevent conflicts and promote durable peace in the region. In the spirit of finding African solutions to African problems, we appreciate the important strides made by the AU-led peace support operations in Somalia, the Lake Chad basin and the Sahel region in particular. Bangladesh continues to express its readiness to further cooperate with the AU, preferably through the United Nations and in full respect of the AU's ownership of its mandated operations.

The joint AU-United Nations review authorized by the Council identified a range of opportunities and outstanding challenges inherent in the strategic partnership that has evolved over the past 15 years. The adoption of resolution 2320 (2016), the AU's decisions and overtures concerning its Peace Fund and the signing of the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security provide a broader context for further broadening and deepening that partnership. The African Union's sustained initiatives to live up to its commitment to fund 25 per cent of the cost of its peace support activities have added further momentum to consolidating the partnership, including through flexible yet sustainable financing modalities.

With regard to the Secretary-General's comprehensive report (S/2017/454), my delegation wishes to underline five general points.

First, we stress the importance of improving capacities for joint appraisal, assessment and analysis of conflicts by the United Nations and the AU, including in the context of the Secretary-General's peace and security architecture reform initiative. It remains critical

that such joint assessment and analysis be conducted in an objective, consultative and inclusive manner.

Secondly, in view of the challenges of obtaining financing through assessed contributions by United Nations States Members, flexibility and diversity with regard to the various options presented by the Secretary-General in his report could help address the prevailing financing gaps and the uncertainty surrounding the trust-fund model based on voluntary contributions. It would be advisable to exercise caution with regard to financing models that have not been sufficiently tested.

Thirdly, in terms of mission support, we recognize the importance of harnessing the respective comparative advantages of the United Nations and the AU in a flexible, case-by-case manner. The experience of the United Nations support offices to the African Union Mission in Somalia and of the Organization in Somalia provides a useful template that could be further strengthened and improvised, with the aim of avoiding duplication and ensuring compliance and oversight.

Fourthly, the notion of doctrinal flexibility, especially with regard to peace enforcement and counter-terrorism, needs to be invoked on the basis of the African Union's ownership and decisions in that regard. We reiterate that the support for African peace support operations should not stretch the mandate and competence of United Nations peacekeeping and support missions or endanger the safety and security of its civilian and non-civilian personnel.

Fifthly, and lastly, we reaffirm the overriding priority of seeking political solutions to conflicts in Africa and elsewhere as a critical precondition for sustaining peace across the continuum of conflicts. The importance of involving women and youth in peace processes, including in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, remains paramount in the interest of enhancing inclusive national ownership.

Bangladesh appreciates the forward-looking thrust in further strengthening the partnership between the United Nations and the AU in the areas of peace and security, and wishes to see further concrete decisions by the Council later this year, while upholding the spirit of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Mr. Suárez Moreno (Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): It is an honour for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to take the floor to speak on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (NAM).

At the outset, on behalf of the member States of the Movement, I extend our best wishes to the delegation of the People's Republic of China in presiding over a successful month in the work of the Security Council. I would also like to express our appreciation for China's efforts in preparing the concept note (S/2017/574, annex) for this session, which serves as the basis for guiding our discussions today. We would also like to acknowledge the diligence with which the delegation of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, under the leadership of Ambassador Sacha Llorentty Soliz, led the work of this organ during the month of June. Similarly, we would like to thank the Secretary-General, Mr. António Guterres, and the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, Mr. Smail Chergui, for their briefings.

As rightly pointed out in the concept note for this open debate, Africa is the continent with the greatest development potential. Nonetheless, that potential could certainly be lost owing to various security and developmental challenges faced by this vibrant continent, including, among others, protracted conflicts, climate change and transnational organized crime. In that regard, its worth noting that, during the seventeenth Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in September 2016 on the Island of Margarita in Venezuela, the NAM Heads of State and Government reiterated their determination to build a peaceful and prosperous world by collectively addressing existing, new and emerging challenges and issues of shared concern to its member States, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the norms and principles of international law.

As we well know, there can be no peace without development and no development without peace, bearing in mind how deeply those two processes are interconnected. It is for that reason that the Movement appreciates the convening of this open debate, aimed at emphasizing the importance of assisting Africa in enhancing its capacities in the areas of peace and security. In that regard, the Non-Aligned Movement underscores the important role that regional and subregional bodies and mechanisms can play in the promotion of regional peace and security and in economic and social development by fostering

cooperation among countries in the region. We also emphasize the importance of synergy between regional and subregional initiatives to ensure complementarity and the added value of each process in achieving their common goals, such as political stability, economic growth, and social and cultural development.

The member States of the Non-Aligned Movement welcome the determination of the United Nations to enhance its relationship and cooperation with regional and subregional organizations, in particular with the African Union, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations. We also welcome the stated support for the implementation of the 2063 Agenda, adopted during the twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Heads of State and Government of the Assembly of the African Union, held from 30 to 31 January 2015 in Addis Ababa, in order to promote peace, stability and socioeconomic development in Africa.

The Security Council has in the past committed itself to strengthening cooperation and coordination with the African Union. Efforts must therefore be redoubled to further strengthen the strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union at the operational, political and tactical levels, with a view to addressing in a holistic manner the challenges faced in the fields of peace and security, including the need to address the root causes of conflicts and to promote stability and development. At the same time, we must bear in mind that the African Union enjoys acknowledged political authority in the region, as well as the premise of African solutions to African problems and the African Union's proven experience in assisting in the peaceful settlement of disputes through political dialogue and consultations, thereby contributing to lasting peace.

While recognizing the important role that youth and women can play in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts, we would like to underscore, inter alia, the African Youth (2009-2018) Decade Plan of Action as a framework for multisectorial and multidimensional engagement by all stakeholders towards the achievement of the goals and objectives of the African Youth Charter, including those of governance, peace and security, as well as the African Peace and Security Architecture Roadmap 2016-2020, including its initiative entitled "Silencing the Guns, Owning the Future: Realizing a Conflict-Free Africa by 2020".

Moreover, the Movement supports ongoing efforts to strengthen African peacekeeping capabilities and emphasizes the importance of implementing the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, which was signed on 19 April, in the short, medium and long terms in all relevant areas. The Non-Aligned Movement also recommends enhancing an effective partnership between the United Nations and the African Union in order to improve the planning, deployment and management of African peacekeeping operations. In that regard, we stress the importance of finding ways to secure predictable, adequate and sustained financial support to African Union-led peace operations so that deployed missions can maximize their operational effectiveness on the ground.

In conclusion, it is worth recalling that, in 2004, former Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali stated in an interview that

> "[t]here is a greater fatigue concerning the African problem today than five or 10 years ago. The situation now in Africa is worse than it was 10 years ago".

Today, 13 years later, his assessment continues to hold true. Therefore, the Non-Aligned Movement encourages the international community to resolutely support efforts in favour of peace, stability and socioeconomic development in Africa, including capacity-building in those areas.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of the Netherlands.

Mrs. Gregoire-Van-Haaren (Netherlands): The Kingdom of the Netherlands thanks China for convening this debate on enhancing African capacities in the areas of peace and security.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands aligns itself with the statement delivered by the observer of the European Union.

Today's complex security challenges require partnerships between the United Nations and regional organizations, such as the African Union (AU). The operationalization of those partnerships requires our full attention. Today's debate serves to underline the acknowledgement by the United Nations of the need for close cooperation with the African Union in the areas of peace and security in Africa. We welcome the progress made since the adoption of resolution 2320

(2016). The signing of the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, in April, was an important step forward.

The May report of the Secretary-General (S/2017/454), in which different modalities for future support of the United Nations to the AU peace support operations are explored, provides useful insights on today's topic. It acknowledges the need for more support to ensure African Union peace operations, in line with the premise that the African Union will reform and secure human, financial and logistical resources. It also highlights the importance of compliance and oversight, particularly in the areas of human rights, conduct and discipline. We acknowledge the positive steps that have been taken by the African Union to implement reforms, in particular the element of increased self-financing.

In today's debate, we want to emphasize two elements: first, the importance of operationalizing the modalities to support the African Union's peace operations; and, secondly, the need to address the root causes of conflicts with a view to sustaining peace.

We acknowledge the positive steps that have been taken by the African Union to build its capacities to plan, finance, sustain and oversee its own missions. Those steps are fundamental in order to strengthen the African Union's capacity to address the multiple aspects of the partnership, all while operating in accordance with United Nations standards. Because of our shared responsibility for peace and security in Africa, we must stay on track to achieve a more institutionalized form of cooperation.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on options for authorization and support for African Union peace support operations. It provides useful recommendations to enhance the practical cooperation between both organizations, including on financing, accountability, compliance and oversight, joint planning and mandating African Union peace support operations. As mentioned in the EU statement, the European Union stands ready to continue to look at how it, together with the United Nations and the African Union, can contribute to achieving progress in the discussion on sustainable financing and a division of labour for peace operations in Africa.

Peace operations are part of a broader, integrated approach. They are an essential element in a range of actions focused on all stages of a conflict cycle, ranging from early warning and the rule of law to humanitarian aid, stabilization and development, as well as accountability. In the light of that, we must address the root causes of conflict, which are often also drivers for migration and displacement, in order to effectively sustain peace. That is core business for the United Nations as a whole. It makes working together across the pillars of the United Nations a key priority.

Working on peace and security in Africa remains a challenge on which we will keep working together through partnership. Resolution 2320 (2016) and the subsequent report of the Secretary-General are important milestones that define concrete steps to be taken to deepen that partnership. It is a partnership based on transparency, accountability, common goals and burden-sharing. We welcome the active approach by Secretary-General Guterres and the Chairman of the African Union Commission, Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands supports intensified cooperation between the triangle of the United Nations, the African Union and the European Union. We trust that the necessary steps will be taken in order to bring that partnership to the next level. We look forward to contributing to the implementation of those steps as a Security Council member in 2018 and beyond. We will continue to strive towards a stronger and more effective partnership between the United Nations and the African Union for the people of Africa and for the good of us all.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of Kuwait.

Mr. Alotaibi (Kuwait) (*spoke in Arabic*): First of all, I would like to congratulate China on its assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of July. I wish you every success, Mr. President. I would also like to thank the Chinese presidency for preparing the concept note (S/2017/574, annex) on the theme of today's debate, namely, enhancing African capacities in the areas of peace and security. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General, Mr. Antonio Guterres and the African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security, Mr. Smail Chergui, for their valuable briefings.

Ensuring peace and security is undoubtedly one of the many challenges facing our world today. Peace is a precondition for development. In turn, development leads to prosperity. However, many African countries are still stuck in a vicious cycle of conflict and instability

due to political and security challenges, armed conflicts and threats posed by terrorist networks, such as Boko Haram the Lord's Resistance Army, Al-Shabaab and others, as well as organized crime and piracy. In addition, the African continent faces developmental and social challenges due to unemployment, poverty and hunger. Among other things, those challenges pose obstacles to peace and security in Africa. In our capacity as partners in the international community, we must support and help Africa to solve its problems and build its capacities for the promotion of peace and security across the continent. We pay tribute to the efforts of African leaders to address peace and security issues across the continent, as well as for their determination to find African solutions to African problems and their persistence in establishing a conflict-free African continent.

The African Union (AU) and its Peace and Security Council are role models for regional organizations with respect to maintaining peace and security in the countries of the region. They also play a key role in the development of the continent through Agenda 2063. We call for enhancing cooperation between the United Nations, especially the Security Council, and the AU in line with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, which calls for contributions to maintaining peace and security in the region and the world. We would also like to pay tribute to the important role played by the AU in leading a number of peace operations that have become a very important means of responding to conflicts and crises in Africa.

In that regard, I would like to mention resolution 2320 (2016), which reiterates the importance of the partnership between the United Nations and the Peace and Security Council. The partnership should be based on bilateral consultations and joint strategies, as necessary. It should also be based on the comparative advantages of each organization. The partnership should incorporate burden-sharing, consultative decision-making, joint analysis, transparency and accountability in order to take on the joint security challenges in Africa. We reaffirm the importance of the Security Council reviewing the implementation of all its resolutions, especially those related to Africa and cooperation with the African Union.

Sustainable development plays a very important role in establishing stability in all countries. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has opened new paths to peace through a holistic outcome that addresses the root causes of conflicts and impediments to pea Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda calls for promot peaceful and inclusive societies and access to just for all. Kuwait is aware of the powerful nexus betw peace and development. In 1961, we established Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development, wh has extended more than 500 concessional credits more than 50 African countries, amounting to m than $10 billion in credits to the sectors of agricultu energy, transportation, industry, water, communicati and so on.

In parallel to that developmental role, Kuw is also keen on fostering cooperation with Afri In November 2013, under the theme "Partners Development and Investment", Kuwait hosted the th Arab-African Summit, which was attended by Presidents of 34 States, as well by delegations fr 71 countries. Kuwait has worked on creating prospe for Arab-African relations that are based on comm interests in sustainable development and that wo ensure the optimization of our natural resources as w as realize the aspirations of the peoples of the Arab African regions. His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahm Al-Jaber Al-Sabah also announced concessional cre in the amount of $1 billion.

In this regard, allow me to highlight, during Chinese presidency of the Security Council, the that the implementation of this Kuwaiti initiat is being carried out in collaboration with the Chi Africa Development Fund as well as the World Ba and its organizations.

The aforementioned Kuwaiti initiatives contributions are based on our belief in the importa of operationalizing the concept of true partnership w the African continent and our conviction of the rob nexus between development and peace.

Finally, Kuwait, which will be a non-perman member of the Security Council in 2018-2019, will sp no effort in continuing to support the African count and the African Union, and will work to enha African conflict-prevention and settlement capaci and for the maintenance of peace and stability.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give floor to the representative of Nigeria.

Mr. Haidara (Nigeria): Let me begin by thank the delegation of China for having organized open debate. I particularly commend your reso

Mr. President, in deciding to personally preside over this meeting throughout the day. This is a reflection of China's commitment to enhancing peace and security in Africa. I also commend the Secretary-General and the African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security for their briefings, which aptly captured the essence of our deliberations today.

Nigeria aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

As encapsulated in the concept note (S/2017/574, annex), Africa remains the continent with the greatest development potential. Nonetheless, efforts to harness this potential have been hampered by the myriad challenges facing the continent. Some of the most urgent challenges are the spread of extremist ideologies, terrorism and the illicit transfer and proliferation of small arms and light weapons. Yet these contemporary global challenges tend to be transnational in character and are often beyond the capacity of any one country to resolve.

While the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security resides with the Security Council, regional actions lighten the burden of the Council and provide an added layer of legitimacy to multilateralism. Regional efforts enhance the prospects for inclusivity and consensus in addressing the challenges to global peace and security. It is against this backdrop that we situate today's debate, which seeks to enhance Africa's capacity in the areas of peace and security.

The United Nations Charter, as adopted, foresees a world in which the United Nations and regional organizations would work together to prevent, manage and resolve crises. Over the years, notable instances of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, particularly in peacekeeping and conflict prevention, have yielded high-quality dividends. These gains hold a lot more promise for the future.

In recognition of the foregoing, Nigeria welcomes the determination of the United Nations to enhance its relationship and cooperation with the African Union (AU) and to support the full and effective implementation of Agenda 2063. This, we believe, will contribute in no small measure to ensuring the promotion of peace, stability and socioeconomic development in Africa.

We therefore see a need to redouble efforts to further strengthen the strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union. This will enable us to address, in a holistic manner, the challenges faced in the fields of peace and security. In this regard, Nigeria welcomes the signing in April of the new landmark framework to strengthen partnership between the United Nations and the African Union on peace and security in order to better respond to the changing dimensions and evolving challenges of peace operations.

Nigeria supports the continued efforts to strengthen African peacekeeping capabilities and emphasizes the importance of implementing the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security. We also recommend the enhancement of an effective partnership between the United Nations and the African Union, in order to improve the planning, deployment and management of African peacekeeping operations. In this regard, we stress the importance of finding ways to secure predictable, adequate and sustained financial support for African Union-led peace operations, so that the missions deployed can effectively maximize their operational capabilities with respect to the tasks at hand.

While the option of a jointly developed and jointly funded budget would require additional work by the United Nations Secretariat and the AU Commission before it could be put into practice, Nigeria endorses the four options outlined by the Secretary-General, and we call on the Security Council to endorse these options. In addition to the issue of financing, we take note of the proposal contained in the Secretary-General's report (S/2017/454) for a decision-making framework aimed at making joint action more effective between the United Nations and the African Union.

In conclusion, if indeed the primary responsibility of the Council is to maintain international peace and security, its work in managing international peace and security should be viewed through the lens of preventive diplomacy. If the United Nations is able to assist African nations in restoring their social and institutional fabric, and if we can also apply ourselves to the ongoing task of providing opportunities for people and their livelihoods within the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, we can go a long way towards reducing the propensity for conflict in Africa.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now call on the representative of Rwanda.

Mrs. Rugwabiza (Rwanda): Rwanda congratulates you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for the month of July and for convening this debate on a subject of paramount importance to our continent, Africa. We also thank the briefers, the Secretary-General and the African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security for their earlier briefings.

Today's threats to peace and security, worldwide and on our continent, have become much more complex, as has been underlined by many speakers, which calls for multifaceted interventions and stronger partnerships with regional organizations.

The African Union is better positioned in terms of knowledge and proximity to mobilize and respond quickly to existing and new threats to peace and security. We believe that the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, which was signed in April by the United Nations Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, provides the necessary framework for a much-needed closer and more focused cooperation between the two organizations. What we now need to do is institutionalize that cooperation.

Allow me to make specific recommendations on the issues being considered in our debate today, which you, Mr. President, very ably presented in your concept note (S/2017/574, annex).

First, Rwanda believes in the value of holding regular dialogue and consultations between the African Union and the Security Council on all conflicts on the continent. The information shared by both institutions during this dialogue will, in our opinion, increase the understanding of the context and root causes of such conflicts and therefore help design adequate responses.

Secondly, Rwanda strongly recommends increased investment in the African Union capacities to intervene and respond effectively to warning signals with rapid interventions to protect civilians and prevent conflicts from spreading and escalating.

Often in conflict situations, the only credible prevention is rapid action. Enhancing African capacities in the areas of peace and security and, more specifically, enabling the African Union to address the deficit in the training, equipment and capacities of security institutions will augment their ability to respond effectively to current and emerging threats.

Thirdly, in post-conflict situations, Rwanda recommends that investment in institutions' capacities and inclusive governance systems be given priority in development cooperation.

Fourthly, the lack of predictable and sustainable funding remains a major challenge to the ability of the African Union to engage more effectively and use its comparative advantage to address conflicts and sustain peace on the continent. In order to address that challenge, the African Union Summit decided, at its twenty-fourth Ordinary Session, held in Kigali in July 2016, to finance 25 per cent of the African Union-led peace support operations. The African Union Peace Fund, established by the African Union, and Mr. Kaberuka's report serve that purpose. Supporting the African Union Peace Fund, including through United Nations assessed contributions, will go a long way in ensuring predictable financing and contributing to the goal of ending conflicts in Africa. The management structure, accountability and transparency mechanisms built into the administration of the African Union Peace Fund will ensure value for money. However, Rwanda knows through experience that the highest value for money lies in the millions of lives that could be saved by enhancing African capacities to respond to peace and security issues.

None of the 17 ambitious Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development can be realized without peace and security. Therefore, increased investment in Africa's capacities in the area of peace and security is an investment in ensuring that the 2030 Agenda leaves no one behind, including, above all, those affected by conflicts today.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Djibouti.

Mrs. Hassan (Djibouti) (*spoke in French*): Allow me to thank the Chinese presidency for organizing this open debate on the important issue of enhancing African capacities in the area of peace and security. I would also thank the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the African Union (AU) Commissioner for Peace and Security for their contributions to this important public debate. Finally, we thank you, Mr. President, for the concept note drafted in preparation for this meeting (S/2017/574, annex), which again demonstrates

the importance that your country attaches to the African continent.

Djibouti aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the Movement of Non Aligned Countries.

The African continent alone accounts for 70 per cent of the world's current crises and two thirds of the Security Council's deliberations. As rightly pointed out in the concept note and taken up by several delegations in the Chamber today, Africa remains fragile in the face of multiple and multifaceted crises. Terrorist organizations — such as Al-Shabaab, Boko Haram and others — remain a threat to the security of our continent.

The deployment of peacekeepers, made up of 50 per cent Africans in several peacekeeping theatres — notably in Darfur, the Central African Republic, Mali and Somalia — clearly illustrates the commitment of African States and the African Union and its regional entities to contributing, alongside the United Nations, to collective security as provided for in the Charter of the United Nations. Each of our debates contributes to improving the overall performance of peacekeeping missions. It is therefore vital for the security of the continent and for international peace and security that long-term solutions be identified.

In that regard, my delegation would like to pay tribute to the second Chiefs of Defense Conference, which took place in New York on 7 July. The theme of the meeting was how to improve the overall performance of United Nations peacekeeping missions. Almost 100 countries were represented by their Chiefs of Staff. That clearly demonstrates the great importance our respective countries attach to peacekeeping operations.

The African Union has consistently demonstrated its political will in recent years and has undertaken major changes such as the restructuring of the African Union Commission with a view to adapting it to Agenda 2063. At the most recent African Union Summit, member States highlighted the message set out in the Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns by 2020, so as to reduce armed conflict in the continent. There can be no peace without development nor development without peace.

One of the strengths of the African Union is its subregional organizations, which have devoted a great deal of effort and resources to identifying emerging crises and to adopting collective measures to prevent conflicts. We welcome the efforts of those organizations to reduce the tragic crises in Africa. In addition, United Nations support for conflict management in Africa has also increased over the past 25 years. The Peace and Security Council of the African Union has proved to be a reliable partner. Through that partnership, the level of inter-organizational cooperation should inevitably lead to the development of common strategies through joint assessments, robust decision-making mechanisms based on consultation and information sharing, and monitoring mechanisms that facilitate planning and operational cooperation throughout the conflict cycle. Only a productive partnership can improve collective security.

(*spoke in English*)

Since the adoption of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations report (see S/2015/446), almost two years ago, we have noticed some positive changes benefiting the two organization — the adoption of resolution 2320 (2016); the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, signed under the auspices of the Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the African Union; resolution 2359 (2017); and the reports of the Secretary-General (S/2017/454) and the African Union Commission Chairperson. Those are a few concrete illustrations of support for autonomous African Union peace operations, which are crucial to addressing the challenges of peace and security.

(*spoke in French*)

There is an urgent need for more synergy, for a harmonious African Union-United Nations partnership in the prevention, mediation and management of violent conflicts and for an increase in joint efforts to mobilize more resources. In that regard, greater flexibility in the interpretation of Chapter VIII of the Charter would significantly reduce missteps in the area of peace and international security.

In conclusion, on the occasion of the Nelson Mandela International Day yesterday, Secretary-General António Guterres, called for honouring the legacy of the former South African President — not by making statements or holding ceremonies, but by making our world better.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of Botswana.

Mr. Ntwaagae (Botswana): Given the lateness of the hour, I will be very brief. I would like to take this

opportunity, on behalf of my delegation, to congratulate the People's Republic of China on its assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of July and to commend you, Mr. President, for convening today's important open debate on the topic "Peace and security in Africa: enhancing African capacities in the areas of peace and security". I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for the very valuable contribution he made this morning at the start of the debate. We would also like to express our appreciation for the briefing by the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union.

Botswana aligns itself with the statement delivered earlier by the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

Botswana welcomes this open debate focused on peace and security challenges in Africa, the most conflict-prone continent in the world. It is our ardent hope that today's discussion will enable us to find solutions to the existing, new and emerging challenges to peace and security in Africa. In that regard, we urge the international community to assist African Member States, the African Union and Africa's regional economic communities in dealing with those challenges, particularly the rise of terrorism and the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons.

Africa needs financial and technical assistance and capacity-building if it is to enhance its capacities in the areas of peace and security. This is crucial to developing human capital and national legal frameworks, policies and action plans for promoting peace and security, particularly with regard to the acquisition and management of weapons and small arms. African capacities can also be strengthened through institutional cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations, as well as strategic partnerships with other actors actively involved in this area, such as your own country, Mr. President.

Botswana welcomes the commitment by African leaders to silencing the guns by 2020, in accordance with the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the 2016 Lusaka road map. Until Africa addresses its peace and security challenges, its sustainable development will continue to be elusive. As the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development rightly notes, "There can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development." Conflict prevention and resolution are therefore critical to sustainable development and durable peace. Poverty is identified as one of the root causes of conflict and instability, reinforcing the importance of the nexus of development and security. Promoting economic and social development enhances national, regional and global peace and security.

Botswana commends China for the capacity-building and technical-training programmes that it has provided to African countries over the years through the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation. We also acknowledge with appreciation the contribution that China makes to enhancing African capacities in diplomacy, peacekeeping, civilian protection, logistical support, joint military exercises and training, counter-terrorism and counter-piracy. Lastly, China also contributes troops, police, experts and funding in support of peacekeeping missions in Africa, for which we are deeply grateful.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of Uganda.

Mr. Ayebare (Uganda): At the outset, my delegation would like to express its gratitude and appreciation to the People's Republic of China for organizing today's open debate, which is very important to Africa. We greatly appreciate the briefings this morning by the Secretary-General and Mr. Smail Chergui, Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union.

While the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security belongs to the Security Council, Africa has been playing an increasingly central role in those efforts on the African continent, based on Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations. That requires an effective partnership between the African Union (AU) and the United Nations, and in particular between the AU Peace and Security Council and the Security Council. The annual joint meetings between the two Councils are clear testimony to the importance that the United Nations attaches to peace and security in Africa.

My country has actively supported and participated in African Union-led peace support operations and other peace initiatives in the region. Uganda was the first and largest troop-contributing country in the African Union Mission in Somalia, where through our joint work with our sister countries of Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya and Djibouti we have contributed to liberating Somalia from the terrorists of Al-Shabaab and helped to

establish a security situation that has enabled Somalia to hold successful successive national elections.

It is important to note that regional mechanisms and subregional organizations in Africa have also played a critical role in maintaining peace and security there, and that they are indeed the building blocks of the African peace and security architecture. For example, through the East African Community, Uganda continues to play a leading role in encouraging all Burundian stakeholders to engage in an all-inclusive political dialogue in support of President Mkapa as facilitator. Under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, Uganda continues to work with other Member States to address the current conflict in South Sudan, particularly on reconciling the various factions of the ruling Sudan People's Liberation Movement, which we believe will ultimately lead to the restoration of peace and security in that country.

We cannot talk about building capacities for peace and security in Africa without addressing issues that directly threaten some of our member States. In that regard, I should single out the situation in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo, where the United Nations has one of the largest peacekeeping missions in Africa and where negative forces continue to threaten Member States. I should specifically mention the Allied Democratic Forces, which are directly threatening our country. If Africa and the United Nations do not address this urgent situation, it will undermine the entire peacekeeping enterprise in Africa generally, and thus our capacity to maintain peace and security there.

The Secretary-General's report (S/2017/454) on options for authorization and support for African Union peace support operations, submitted to the Council on 26 May, is a welcome development, and we look forward to hearing about the Council's specific commitments to addressing Africa's concerns with regard to the provision of adequate, predictable and sustainable sources of funding for AU-led peace operations.

As you correctly indicated in your concept note (S/2017/574, annex), Mr. President, respecting African countries' ownership in solving African security problems is a precondition and foundation for support to African-led peace operations. My delegation joins other Member States in stressing how vital it is to ensure that the Security Council listens to Africa in addressing the security challenges facing the continent.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of Mali.

Mr. Konfourou (Mali) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on the People's Republic of China's accession to the presidency of the Security Council for the month of July. I would like to say how much we in Africa, especially we in Mali, appreciate your cooperation with our respective countries. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General and the African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security for their very thought-provoking and considerate briefings on this issue this morning.

The delegation of Mali aligns itself fully with the statement previously delivered by the delegation of Venezuela on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

The African continent still harbours an array of challenges — first and foremost among them the quest for peace and security. In the context of our debate this afternoon, I would like to share with members of the Council some suggested courses of action in the area of enhancing African capacity in the field of peace and security.

First, the old adage that prevention is better than cure still holds true. That is why the first point I wish to make is a plea for the strengthening and enhancing of African capacity in terms of conflict prevention. On that point, as I am sure those present will recall, the African Union and subregional organizations, such as Economic Community of West African States and many more such groupings on the African continent, have set up early-warning mechanisms that serve the purposes of handmaiden of preventive diplomacy.

Crisis prevention also necessitates staying the course for the long haul to mitigate and eventually eradicate the factors and root causes of tension and conflict, namely, poverty, poor governance, injustice, human rights violations and marginalization. It would be remiss of me not to mention at this juncture the shared action we must pursue to counter the illicit economy that fuels conflict in Africa, in particular trafficking of all types, including trafficking in weapons, drugs, currency, black market goods and human beings.

Secondly, it is important to note that regional and subregional cooperation wards off common threats, such as terrorism, violent extremism and transnational

organized crime. African countries have also made great progress in that regard. The most recent example of such progress is the establishment of the Joint Force Force of the Group of Five States for the Sahel (G-5), which grew out of the shared determination of the Heads of State of Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger and Chad to pool their efforts and their resources so as to effectively and efficiently counter terrorism and other forms of organized crime.

I should also like to draw attention to the fact that, alongside its focus on security, the G-5 Sahel, first and foremost, is a forum for addressing development, governance and the resilience of its people. The setting up of the Joint Force embodies the determination of the Heads of State of the region, supported by the African Union, to foster the requisite conditions for sustainable development and peace in the region; for we are firmly convinced that lasting peace cannot be achieved in the absence of development and investment. In that regard, I should like to express my gratitude for the strategic partnerships and alliances that have been gradually established by well-disposed friendly countries and international partner organizations to backstop the G-5 Sahel initiative and to support the broader region.

Moreover, we are all very well aware that there is no purely military solution to extremist ideologies. That is why I think it is crucial that Africa equip itself with a peaceful counter-radicalization strategy that is fit-for-purpose, and that it do so in and through Africa's own mechanisms, in particular by heeding the advice of the Panel of the Wise, traditional or religious leaders and civil society, including women and the youth. Wwe also know that education has a core role to play in terms of providing a spirit of civic belonging and fostering peaceful coexistence in our respective countries.

Thirdly, it is necessary to underscore the importance of cooperation between the United Nations and African regional organizations, especially the African Union, with a view to further developing African conflict resolution management and prevention capacities, as well as boosting African ownership of post-conflict peacebuilding. I commend the initiatives and measures currently under way between the Secretary-General and the African Union Commission. That brings forth the need to highlight the pressing need to work to fine-tune consistency and coordination that are a sine qua non for the various joint actions inked with our bilateral and multilateral partners who participate in conflict management and resolution in Africa.

I would like to conclude with an appeal for concrete and meaningful action to help Africa to eradicate, completely and sustainably, the wellsprings of tension and enable it to turn its attention to development.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of Israel.

Ms. Meitzad (Israel): On behalf of my delegation, I thank you for your leadership, Sir, as President of the Security Council, and I commend you for convening this important debate.

In recent years, innocent persons across Africa have endured unrelenting conflict due to the proliferation of terrorist groups in their countries. From Boko Haram in Nigeria to Al-Qaida affiliates in the Sahel region, to Al-Shabaab in Somalia and Da'esh throughout the continent, terrorists continue to pose an urgent and increasing threat to peace and security in Africa. The consequences are devastating. Children are recruited into radical organizations, teenaged girls are forced to marry men often four times their age and countless innocent lives are stolen every day. While the dangers of terrorism pose immediate and obvious threats to security, the long-term effects can prevent crucial economic and social development in Africa.

Africa is a continent on the rise. Israel and Africa share many similarities in our experiences, especially as they relate to security challenges. It is in the strategic interests of Israel to build robust and lasting partnerships with Africa. As a young country in a region plagued by conflict, Israel was compelled to develop comprehensive counter-terrorism solutions. With Hamas and Hizbullah right on our doorstep, Israel is well-versed in the threats that terrorist groups, like Boko Haram and Al-Shabaab, can pose to peace. With unique know-how, technology, research and development, Israel seeks to contribute, as much as possible, to the global fight against terrorism, especially in Africa.

Israel supports the partnerships between the African Union, regional groups, partner nations and the United Nations to advance security collectively. Regional, local groups and initiatives can play a crucial role in countering terrorism and overcoming security threats by helping improve police and border control, confronting the financing of terrorism, halting the proliferation of weapons and more.

As many have stated in the past, there can be no security without development and no development

without security. My country shares that understanding and will continue to share lessons learned with our friends and allies throughout Africa. Last year, Prime Minister Netanyahu visited East Africa to discuss counter-terrorism and development initiatives with regional leaders. This year, the Prime Minister had the honour to participate in last month's Economic Community of West African States Heads of State meeting in Liberia. In his address, the Prime Minister stated,

> "Our goal here is not merely to join forces to fight the bad, but to work together to advance the good."

Collaboration in Africa should not focus solely on combating terrorism, but must also work to bolster development. African-Israeli partnerships have already internalized that lesson. Whether through official channels or non-governmental organizations, Israel is fully present and active in the effort to encourage innovative technologies, inspire entrepreneurship and empower communities.

Israel believes that, while talent can be found anywhere, opportunities must be created. Therefore, Israel's international development agency, Mashav, emphasizes the power of human capital — an abundant resource on the African continent. Mashav programmes in Africa seek to empower communities, especially youth, strengthen high-tech know-how and capacity-building and provide specialized training.

It is the long-standing belief of Israel that the inclusion of women is key to sustaining peace, in Africa and around the world. In that regard, we commend the Secretary-General's initiative for prioritizing women's roles in peacekeeping in the United Nations. One of Mashav's critical projects, in partnership with UN-Women, reflects that view. Through its annual workshop, Mashav provides a platform for African women to engage actively in politics, peacebuilding, mediation and conflict resolution.

Along with Government efforts, civil society activities are a major driver for fostering development. Various Israeli non-governmental organizations have been working on the ground together with local communities to advance water, energy and health solutions. It is through such initiatives that youth and women become leaders, start-up founders and agents for change for sustainable peace and development in Africa. Support from the international community, regional organizations and partner States is vital to the development and stability of Africa. However, we believe it is equally important that African challenges be met with African-led solutions.

Israel is committed to working together with our friends in Africa to shape a safer and more secure and prosperous future.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of Canada.

Mr. Grant (Canada) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, allow me to thank China for organizing this open debate on enhancing African capacities in the area of peace and security.

Despite much progress, armed conflict and insecurity continue to undermine progress toward sustainable development in many parts of Africa. We have committed to partnering with Africans with a view to supporting African-led efforts to address peace and security challenges on the continent and, in this regard, there is much work to be done.

Canada's new feminist international assistance policy emphasizes the importance of working with African Governments to ensure that women are active participants in shaping political solutions to violent conflict; promoting the increased and meaningful participation of women in peace operations; protecting and promoting the rights of women and girls; and to preventing and responding to sexual violence — including sexual exploitation and abuse perpetrated by peacekeeping personnel. When women and girls play integral and meaningful roles in society, States are more peaceful and resilient. We should support our African partners, who are endeavouring to advance holistic approaches to address drivers of conflict, with a particular focus on empowering women and girls.

(*spoke in English*)

It is also critical that we do more to strengthen partnerships between the United Nations system, individual Member States, and African regional organizations and their member States. For example, supporting new or expanded innovative training initiatives for African countries, which provide significant numbers of troops and police to peacekeeping missions, would serve to enhance the effectiveness of both African-led and United Nations efforts to promote peace and security on the continent, as could greater sharing of analysis and lessons learned. Recognizing

this, as host of the 2017 United Nations Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial, which will take place in November in Vancouver, Canada will be convening countries to discuss ways to strengthen partnerships to enhance the effectiveness of United Nations peace operations. We also commend the new Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security to further our coordination efforts.

Finally, we must focus more on enhancing the financial viability of African Union (AU) peace operations as a cornerstone of African leadership. In that regard, Canada calls on all States to support the efforts of the AU to increase African resource mobilization to fund the operations and programmes of the AU Commission, including in the area of peace and security. For our part, Canada will keep an open mind and looks forward to dialogue on the modalities available to ensure successful AU peace operations.

By collaborating on advancing the women and peace and security agenda, more robust partnerships, and enhancing the financial viability of AU operations, we can help our African partners realize their vision of a more peaceful and prosperous Africa. We look forward to continue working with our African and international partners in this endeavour.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of Morocco.

Mr. Hilale (Morocco) (*spoke in French*): Allow me first of all to congratulate you, Mr. President, on the relevant choice of topic under discussion today, and to thank you for organizing this open debate. Your choice underlines the importance that your country attaches to our continent and the pride of place it has.

I would also like to thank the People's Republic of China for its strong and generous commitment to Africa, particularly in terms of capacity-building and logistical support in the area of peace and security.

Our continent, Africa, is undeniably on the road of development and progress. However, the complexity of contemporary conflicts and sources of instability takes on a variety of forms: terrorism, transnational organized crime, separatism and the struggle to control natural resources, just to name a few. It is in that context that we must pay particular attention to the root causes of conflicts and also strengthen African capacities in terms of conflict prevention. Effectively addressing threats to peace and security requires a better understanding of these challenges, as well as considerable human, technical and financial resources that Africa alone cannot provide. The support of the international community remains crucial. That support is often provided through regional and subregional organizations, which continue to demonstrate their added value and comparative advantages.

Morocco welcomed the signing of the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security on 19 April. We hope that it can be implemented effectively and efficiently, and we are prepared to offer our support in that regard. This new agreement will be the culmination of the efforts of the two organizations and their member States, which all recognize the need to strengthen the partnership between the two organizations.

Cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union in the area of peace and security is not new. This cooperation takes place on the ground in various forms, such as the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, and the provision of logistical support mechanisms financed by contributions intended for African Union-led missions, such as the African Union Mission in Somalia. The transition from African Union missions to United Nations missions in Mali and the Central African Republic has highlighted some of the shortcomings of African Union peace operations, which we consider to be more related to the lack of resources.

However, current circumstances have demonstrated the limitations of these types of partnerships and the urgency of adapting this strategic partnership in order to refocus discussions on the need to find ways to ensure predictable, flexible and sustainable financing for African Union peace operations authorized by the Security Council. In particular, that funding would make it possible to accelerate African capacity-building in the area of peace and security.

The reports of the two organizations on this subject stressed the importance of adequate funding for African peace operations, offering different options. African countries have demonstrated their willingness to commit more to this path by guaranteeing 25 per cent of the financing of their peacekeeping operations by 2020. Resolution 2359 (2017), recently adopted, on the Group of Five for the Sahel force could have provided an alternative to existing forms of support, but, unfortunately, the African positions could not be

sustained. Africa is still waiting for a strong signal from its partners.

In that regard, I would like to congratulate the African representatives on the Security Council: Senegal, Egypt and Ethiopia. These countries have spared no effort to advance the priorities of the continent, including the issue of financing. They have been fully invested in the elaboration of the presidential statement and of resolution 2320 (2016).

Bilateral partners also play an important role in strengthening African capacities. You, Sir, and the other members who spoke during this debate, spoke about the various actions taken to strengthen African capacities in the area of peace and security.

For its part, the Kingdom of Morocco, a founding member of the Organization of African Unity, rediscovered its institutional family in January during the twenty-eighth African Union Summit, held in Addis Ababa. In that capacity, my country will play fully its role in peace and security among its African peers. Nevertheless, Morocco did not wait to rejoin the African Union to take steps to proactively support its fraternal African countries in the area of peace and security. My country can be justly proud of its experience and recognized expertise, which it has not hesitated to share in the framework of South-South cooperation, one that is fair and active.

During its time on the Security Council, Morocco played a leading role in drafting the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel, but also in the drafting of the United Nations response to the crisis in Guinea-Bissau, Libya and the Central African Republic. Concerning the Central African Republic, Morocco has had the honour to chair the Central African Republic country-specific configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission since 2014. In that capacity, I visited the country last week, which allowed me to further underscore my belief that capacity-building and the support of partners is essential in our peacebuilding and peacekeeping efforts.

Morocco's cooperation extends to more than 30 African countries and comprises the following areas: the training of military and security personnel of all grades and various fields; donations of materiel and equipment; predeployment training for contingents destined for peacekeeping operations; support for, and provision of, military infrastructure; the training of magistrates and judges; and the strengthening and support for the implementation of national human rights institutions.

I have just referred to the training of magistrates and to our support for strengthening national human rights institutions. We believe that those are key because, in our view, the fight against impunity, human rights violations and the promotion of the rule of law are some of the key elements of tackling the deep-rooted causes of conflicts and instability, and that is particularly true in Africa.

To conclude, I would like once again to commend China's commitment alongside Africa and its support for the implementation and the operationalization of the recommendations adopted in the various Security Council resolutions.

Morocco remains steadfast in its determination to pursue and enhance its cooperation with all African countries, both bilaterally and multilaterally. My country will spare no effort to continue to make a positive contribution to the efforts of the international community aimed at tackling instability and conflict in Africa.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.8007

Security Council

Seventy-second year

Provisional

8007th meeting
Thursday, 20 July 2017, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Liu Jieyi	(China)
Members:	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Mr. Inchauste Jordán
	Egypt	Mr. Moustafa
	Ethiopia	Mr. Alemu
	France	Mr. Delattre
	Italy	Mr. Biagini
	Japan	Mr. Bessho
	Kazakhstan	Mr. Sadykov
	Russian Federation	Mr. Safronkov
	Senegal	Mr. Seck
	Sweden	Mr. Skoog
	Ukraine	Mr. Yelchenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Rycroft
	United States of America	Ms. Sison
	Uruguay	Mr. Rosselli

Agenda

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. *Corrections* should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

17-22286 (E)

Accessible document Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2017/615, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by Ethiopia, France, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Senegal, Sweden, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

The Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): The draft resolution received 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 2368 (2017).

I shall now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements following the voting.

Ms. Sison (United States of America): With today's adoption of resolution 2368 (2017), the Security Council is taking another important step towards helping to defeat the Islamic State in Iraq and the Sham (ISIS) and Al-Qaida. We thank the other sponsors of the resolution for their support.

There is no higher priority for the United States, which is why we are leading a 72-member coalition that is making great strides in liberating territory from the grip of ISIS. The United States has been supporting the Iraqi Government in its effort to push ISIS out of Mosul, and ISIS's last strongholds in Syria are coming under intense pressure. But even as it is losing ground in Syria and Iraq, the threat that it represents is far from over. ISIS will continue looking to spread its ideology and radicalize new groups around the world. It will create new offshoots in new places; fighters who trained with ISIS in Syria are now starting to return home.

The Security Council has to show that it can adapt to such changing threats, and that is the goal of the resolution we have adopted today. Its provisions recognize the importance of focusing not just on ISIS but also on its affiliates, wherever they may emerge. We have also redoubled our commitment to enforcing these measures. The resolution urges for more international cooperation in cutting off terrorist funding, preventing terrorists from travelling and stopping such groups from acquiring arms. In order to help ensure that those sanctions are being fully and fairly implemented, we have reaffirmed our support to the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team of the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities and to its Ombudsperson. In another important step, in today's resolution the Security Council added eight new individuals and entities to the 1267 Committee's sanctions list. They include ISIS leaders in South-East Asia, foreign fighters from the Caucasus, illicit money exchange businesses and ISIS-affiliated terrorist groups in Syria, and there will be more designations to come.

In order to make the best use of this tool, the Security Council should regularly add to the sanctions list the names of any new ISIS- or Al-Qaida-affiliated individuals or groups, wherever they may be in the world. But while implementing the sanctions is essential, it is only one part of a broader strategy for defeating ISIS and the violent, extremist ideology that feeds it. All States Members of the United Nations should work together to prevent groups from declaring allegiance to ISIS and becoming one of its affiliates. We must mobilize action to address the issue of former ISIS fighters who return or relocate to other countries. We cannot allow them to become a new threat elsewhere.

And we must do more, especially here at the United Nations, to help countries prevent and counter violent extremism before it takes root. In order to do so, it is essential that we build strong partnerships with civil society, faith leaders, youth and local communities. ISIS, along with similar groups, threaten not just our

security, but also our values, such as tolerance, human dignity and freedom. For that reason, in every region of the world, people of all faiths have come together to condemn terrorism. The United States will continue to lead that effort. Today's unanimous vote reinforces the global resolve to defeat terrorism wherever it is found.

Mr. Safronkov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The Russian Federation supported resolution 2368 (2017), on sanctions related to the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and Al-Qaida. Taking into account the unprecedented magnitude and scale of the threats to international relations from those groups, we concur with our colleagues from the United States. Today yet another important step has been taken towards strengthening the counter-terrorism regime. Now all States, without exception, are called upon to fully and conscientiously comply with the provisions of today's key resolution. There can be no double standards.

We are deeply troubled by the fact that, due to the positions of some delegations, Council members' concerns were not fully taken into account in reaching agreement on the adoption of a text on such a key issue as jointly combating terrorism. I am chiefly referring to the Russian proposal to impose a comprehensive ban on any trade and economic links with any territories under ISIL control. We must bear in mind that terrorists deal with wide-ranging, cross-border smuggling in hydrocarbons and other goods. Illegal business provides them with tens of millions of dollars in revenue on a monthly basis. That revenue is used to purchase munitions and weapons, which makes it all the more difficult to apply coercive measures against them. We firmly advocate that we continue to such measures, as well as other others, in order to ensure a full financial, material and technical isolation of terrorist groups.

We are equally confounded by the fact that the text does not include a reference to Article 103 of the Charter of the United Nations, which is something that we insisted upon. Article 103 refers to the primacy of the Charter over other international treaties. The relevance of such a reference based on the need to enhance the authority of the Security Council's binding decisions with regard to sanctions and to ensure that they are fully implemented nationally by all branches of Government. Our firm position is that we must ensure full and complete compliance with the Charter. Without that, it will be impossible to ensure the integrity of the sanctions regime. We firmly believe that, in order to make consistent progress in combating terrorists, we need to genuinely dovetail the efforts of all stakeholders. Therein lies the sole way of ensuring a full and definitive end of the terrorist threat to global stability. We stand ready to engage in collective efforts to that end.

Mr. Alemu (Ethiopia): Ethiopia welcomes the unanimous adoption of resolution 2368 (2017), on the review of the sanctions regime on Al-Qaida and the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) under resolution 2253 (2015). I would like to express my appreciation to the penholder for successfully steering the review process, and to the members of the Council for their flexibility. We are pleased to have co-sponsored the resolution.

Ethiopia finds itself in one of the most volatile regions of Africa, which is facing increasing levels of terrorism and radicalization. Therefore, Ethiopia is firmly committed to combating the scourge of terrorism in order to ensure its own peace and security in the region, where Al-Shabaab and other terrorist groups affiliated with ISIL and Al-Qaida are very active. Ethiopia recognizes that its fight against terrorism cannot be effective without forging the required regional and international cooperation. In the light of that, sanctions are indeed one of the most important tools at the disposal of the Security Council in the fight against terrorism. That is why the sanctions regime against ISIL and Al-Qaida remains very important.

The report of the Secretary-General (S/2017/467), as well as the reports of the Monitoring Team, have highlighted the impact of resolution 2253 (2015) with regard to the criminalization of terrorist financing, measures taken to freeze the assets of those supporting terrorist organizations or individual terrorists, increased integration of financial intelligence into counter-terrorism work, raising and moving funds, as well as other matters related to the fight against terrorism. In that connection, we consider vital the inclusion in resolution 2368 (2017) of the issue of addressing foreign terrorist fighters and returnees, language against terrorism financing, updated language on the work of the Ombudsperson, all while recalling recent Council resolutions and their transitory provisions, which have strengthened the sanctions regime. We believe that, if the resolution is properly implemented, it would definitely serve as a very good tool in the fight against ISIL, Al-Qaida and their affiliates. We hope that it will contribute to promoting international peace and security.

Mr. Bessho (Japan): Japan welcomes the unanimous adoption of resolution 2368 (2017), which we co-sponsored. I would like to express my gratitude to the United States for taking the lead on drafting this important resolution.

We have witnessed a large number of terrorist attacks around the world since the adoption of resolution 2253 (2015), in December 2015, and tactics are evolving. It was clear that we had to step up our measures by reviewing resolution 2253 (2015).

There are a number of new paragraphs in today's resolution that address recent terrorist trends. I would especially like to highlight paragraph 39, on returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters, and paragraph 36 on passenger name records (PNR). While the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant is experiencing military setbacks in Iraq and Syria, their threat is spreading globally. Foreign terrorist fighters are returning to their countries of origin and transiting through, travelling to or relocating in other Member States.

For example, as the Secretary-General's report of 31 May (S/2017/467) indicates, the threat level has intensified in South-East Asia due to returnees and relocating fighters going to the region. Given the global nature of the phenomenon, all Member States must enhance their measures against returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters. In addressing the issue, we must bear in mind that the tactics of foreign terrorist fighters are evolving, including through the use of broken travel techniques. Passenger name records are one effective measure to detect foreign terrorist fighters. Today's resolution is the first to call upon Member States to use and develop PNRs. Such documents include passengers' booking information, including itineraries, the names of traveling companions and payment methods. By analyzing PNRs, we can uncover suspicious travel patterns, the flow of terrorist actors and funds and, ultimately, terrorist networks. I stress the importance of PNRs and encourage all Member States that have not yet done so to employ PNR systems as soon as possible. To my knowledge, only 15 of the 193 Member States have introduced PNR systems thus far.

In conclusion, I stress the importance of moving from adoption to implementation. Japan is always ready to work closely with other countries to enhance their capacities in this area. We must unite against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and other terrorist groups by implementing today's resolution, as well as related resolutions, in order to further enhance our counter-terrorism measures.

Mr. Moustafa (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): First of all, I would like to thank the delegation of the United States for its efforts to facilitate negotiations on the very important resolution that we have just adopted, resolution 2368 (2017). In our opinion, it is one of the Security Council's most important resolutions with regard to combating terrorism. It goes without saying that the resolution contains very substantial provisions, such as those, for example, that are linked to the sanctions imposed upon Da'esh and Al-Qaida, as well as on individuals, groups, entities and institutions that are affiliated with those groups. Moreover, we also note the significant paragraphs that commit all countries to prevent the financing of terrorism and the provision of arms and any other support intended for terrorist ends.

We would like to confirm very briefly two very important points.

First, it is crucial that our efforts to combat terrorism be successful. We must adopt a global approach based on combating terrorism, wherever it is found, and tackle its root causes without any exception.

Secondly, we reiterate that, since we joined the Security Council, we have noted that its resolutions, especially with respect to combating terrorism. It is critical for the Security Council to hold countries that do not respect its resolutions accountable. It is inadmissible and irrational for the Council to discover that, after adopting resolutions that establish a legal and operational framework for combating terrorism, regimes or groups in small countries undermine and destroy that framework. Those regimes continuously and flagrantly violate the Council's resolutions without any fear of being held to account. They continue to finance terrorism, provide arms and safe havens to terrorists.

In that regard, I need only cite as evidence the regime of Qatar, which has embraced a policy that favours terrorism. That regime has financed terrorism, provided arms to terrorists, given them refuge and incited terrorism, whether in Libya, Syria, Iraq or in other countries. That is the policy of the Qatar regime, which has already violated the Council's resolutions and believes that economic and political interests will shield it from accountability vis-à-vis the Security Council. It is actually a shameful situation that cannot be allowed

to continue. It is inconceivable to witness the silence and absence of political will pn that account shown by members of the Council, whose resolutions must be effective, for which it must work to end all violations.

In conclusion, I reaffirm that Egypt will always respect its commitments. We will always be at the forefront of the fight against terrorism, while respecting international law, human rights and the rule of law.

Mr. Delattre (France) (*spoke in French*): France welcomes the unanimous adoption of resolution 2368 (2017) and thanks the United States for introducing the resolution and for facilitating the important work carried out during negotiations. Last Friday, my country commemorated the one-year anniversary of the tragic attack that occurred in Nice on 14 July 2016, which claimed the lives of 86 individuals of various nationalities. That memory, as well as the many other recent terrorist attacks throughout the world, remind us of the extent to which we must remain united and determined in our struggle against terrorists, who seek to destroy our way of life and freedom.

The work of the international community against Da'esh is showing results, and that is worth underscoring. On the ground, Da'esh has continued to suffer considerable losses in Iraq and Syria. The victory of Iraqi forces in Mosul is underway. That is a major turning point in the development of the conflict, while in Raqqa the battle continues to deprive that group of a safe haven there. Of late, Da'esh has actually attracted fewer foreign terrorist fighters, which is also of key importance.

However, as we know, sometimes all it takes is one individual to carry out a terrorist attack. Such a threat remains complex and multifaceted. We must therefore continue to take measures commensurate with the threat with which we are faced. That means that we must continue to take action in several areas. Combating propaganda and radicalization disseminated over the Internet, blocking the financial sources used by terrorist groups and preparing for the return of foreign terrorist fighters are three top priorities, without exception, in that context.

Resolution 2368 (2017), which we just adopted today, allows us to update the sanctions regime against Da'esh and Al-Qaida, so as to better take into account the development of the threat and revise our priorities, taken as whole. The resolution — and I would like to highlight this point — is a critical step in our shared struggle against terrorism, which must, more than ever, unite us.

Rest assured of the full commitment of France in the struggle against terrorism in general and against Da'esh, in particular.

Mr. Skoog (Sweden): Like others, I would like to thank the United States for introducing resolution 2368 (2017) today, which improves the tools at the disposal of the international community in combating international terrorism.

Sweden welcomes the unanimous adoption of today's resolution and the substantive updates to the sanctions regime. As the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) Da'esh and Al-Qaida develop new strategies and adapt to a changing landscape, the sanctions regime must be adjusted so as to effectively counter the threat posed by those groups. In particular, we welcome the substantive additions with regard to trafficking in persons, while linking the sanctions regime to landmark resolution 2331 (2016). Once again, the Security Council has reaffirmed its intention to consider targeted sanctions for individuals and entities that are associated with ISIL or Al-Qaida and involved in trafficking in persons in areas affected by armed conflict and in sexual violence in conflict.

The Office of the Ombudsperson is a demonstration of the Council's commitment to fulfilling due-process requirements, and the Office is essential to the effectiveness of the sanctions regime. We wish, in that connection, to take this opportunity to congratulate the Ombudsperson, Catherine Marchi-Uhel, on her important appointment as Head of the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011, and thank her for her outstanding work. We ask the Secretary-General and the Secretariat to facilitate a swift transition.

Mr. Biagini (Italy): Italy welcomes the unanimous adoption of resolution 2368 (2017), which it co-sponsored. The resolution is aimed at updating and expanding the international legal framework for the sanctions regime against Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)/Al-Qaida. Its implementation is now paramount. The sustained military pressure on Da'esh, as well as the depletion of its financial resources, has diminished but not taken away the group's ability to

fund its supporters outside the conflict zone and to carry out attacks on civilians. ISIL can still rely on diversified sources of financing and has drawn income from, inter alia, antiquities smuggling, the exploitation of mineral resources and human trafficking.

Since resolution 2253 (2015) was adopted, the global nature of the threat posed by terrorists has changed and the international community has been confronted with new challenges, including the increasing flow of returning foreign terrorist fighters, the misuse of the Internet and social media by terrorists and the exploitation of human trafficking networks. The new resolution acknowledges and tackles this evolving scenario, which requires a coordinated response by the international community. The United Nations must spearhead the efforts for enhanced cooperation.

In an effort to address and detect the flow of foreign terrorist fighters, some States have adopted and put in place the Advanced Passenger Information and Passenger Name Records tools. These tools are an important means to rein in the movements of terrorists and recruiters more effectively, and we encourage Member States that have not yet done so to take the necessary steps to develop them. Member States have also taken concrete steps to strengthen their relationship with the private sector with a view to responding to terrorist use of information and communication technologies. These public-private partnerships are of paramount importance, not only in countering terrorism financing, but also in detecting and removing terrorist contacts on line.

With regard to the growing concern that terrorists could benefit from trafficking in persons, we regret that it was not possible to have more stringent language in the resolution, stressing the exploitation of human trafficking networks in conflict zones and the potential nexus between that heinous practice and the financing of terrorist organizations.

It is still imperative for the international community to put into place an effective and coordinated response to the terrorist threat for the purpose of eliminating any gaps. It remains crucial to enhance cooperation within and between public sector agencies, both domestically and internationally, and to empower financial intelligence units, law enforcement and intelligence services to improve the exchange of relevant information in a timely manner. Italy is strongly committed to providing international judicial and law enforcement cooperation in the framework of transnational investigations.

Let me conclude by reiterating Italy's strong appreciation of the work conducted by the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team and of the significant role played by the Office of the Ombudsperson in its efforts to guarantee due process and transparency.

Mr. Seck (Senegal) (*spoke in French*): Senegal welcomes the adoption of resolution 2368 (2017), which we had the honour of co-sponsoring. I would therefore like to thank and congratulate the delegation of the United States of America on its leadership in the consultations and the other members of the Council for their contributions, which have enriched the text that we have just adopted, with its 105 paragraphs and 3 annexes that expand the scope and the field of action of the fight against terrorism.

The resolution refers, under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, to numerous and complex measures to be implemented in the fight against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Al-Qaida and individuals, groups and entities that are directly or indirectly related to them. Whether it be on the dark net or the stony ground of the Sahel, the fight against terrorism requires means, technique, coordination and partnership. That is where international cooperation must be intensified in order to help the least privileged States and regions to better understand the complexity of the fight against terrorism and thereby help them become more effective in our common struggle.

Within a context where the international community must more than ever face the problem of the return of foreign terrorist fighters, the resolution strengthens the provisions to fight that pernicious phenomenon. That is the rationale for the support given by Senegal during the consultations, keeping in mind the scope and intensity of the phenomenon in Africa — from the Horn of Africa to the Sahel, including the Lake Chad basin and the Maghreb.

Mr. Rycroft (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom welcomes the unanimous adoption of resolution 2368 (2017), which extends the United Nations sanctions against Da'esh and Al-Qaida. This adoption comes at an important moment in the international community's battle against Da'esh. The liberation of Mosul after a long-fought campaign represents a vital milestone in the battle against Da'esh

in Iraq. I want to pay tribute to the bravery and sacrifice of the Iraqi forces that made this possible. In Syria, operations against Raqqa have begun, and it is only a matter of time before Da'esh see its so-called caliphate crumble. But as we heard from Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Feltman in his briefing to the Council last month (see S/PV.7962), now is not the time for complacency. Instead, we must remain vigilant and resolute.

The fight against Da'esh will not end in Iraq and Syria. Even as we defeat them there, we must actively confront the threat that Da'esh, Al-Qaida and their affiliates pose in other parts of the world. And that is why United Nations sanctions remain an important tool, and why the United Kingdom welcomes the adoption of this resolution. It tightens our stranglehold on those groups and ensures that our measures are fit for purpose. In particular, we welcome the eight new designations adopted today. These designations include terrorist outfits, money-laundering companies, terrorist leaders and foreign terrorist fighters. The diversity of those fighters — from Syria, Iraq, Russia and Indonesia — really underscores that this is a global threat that requires a global response.

The United Kingdom continues to work with its partners, not just on sanctions, but in all our efforts to counter the terrorist threat. That means bringing Da'esh to justice, shutting down terrorist financing, managing the risk posed by foreign terrorist fighters and tackling extremism on line. This is a fight for the long haul, but together we will defeat the scourge of terrorism and our collective values will prevail, and the resolution that we have adopted today is a vital part of that effort.

The President (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I shall now make a statement in my national capacity.

China welcomes the unanimous adoption by the Council of resolution 2368 (2017). Terrorism is the common enemy of humankind. China supports the international community in coordinating its activities and in adopting to an integrated and effective approach to enhance cooperation against terrorism, especially the use of the Internet by terrorists to spread, incite and organize terrorist activities, terrorist financing and the return of terrorist fighters.

In the realm of counter-terrorism, we must adhere to uniform standards, fully leverage the leading role of the United Nations and the Security Council and enhance international coordination effectively. The Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities is an important counter-terrorism mechanism of the United Nations and the Security Council. China supports the Committee in enhancing communications with the countries concerned and in strengthening cooperation with regional and subregional counter-terrorism mechanisms, in accordance with the mandate given to it by the Council. The Committee must constantly improve its work effectiveness so that it can make a greater contribution to advancing the counter-terrorism cause.

We also hope that Member States and the Secretariat will strictly comply with the relevant resolution and the Committee's rules of procedure, and continue to support and cooperate with the Committee in its work so that, together, we can defend the authority and effectiveness of the sanctions regime.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers.

The meeting rose at 10.40 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.8008

Security Council

Seventy-second year

Provisional

8008th meeting

Thursday, 20 July 2017, 10.45 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Liu Jieyi	(China)
Members:	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Mr. Inchauste Jordán
	Egypt	Mr. Kandeel
	Ethiopia	Mr. Alemu
	France	Mr. Delattre
	Italy	Mr. Cardi
	Japan	Mr. Kawamura
	Kazakhstan	Mr. Sadykov
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Senegal	Mr. Seck
	Sweden	Mr. Skoog
	Ukraine	Mr. Yelchenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Rycroft
	United States of America	Ms. Sison
	Uruguay	Mr. Rosselli

Agenda

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. *Corrections* should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

17-22304 (E)

Accessible document Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of South Sudan to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. El-Ghassim Wane, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, and Mr. Festus Mogae, Chairperson of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission, to participate in this meeting.

Mr. Mogae is participating in today's meeting via video-teleconference from Juba.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I give the floor to Mr. Wane.

Mr. Wane: I am grateful for the opportunity to brief the Security Council on the Secretary-General's report on the situation in South Sudan. I will restrict my remarks to updates on the political and security situation received since the circulation of the report on 18 July and will provide some additional considerations.

As far as the deployment of the Regional Protection Force and the status-of-forces agreement violations are concerned, I do not have much more to add to the report that was recently shared. However, allow me to emphasize that, while the Regional Protection Force continues with its process of deployment — we do expect some progress with the arrival of the Rwandan and Ethiopian units in the next two months — the peace process in South Sudan continues to face a number of challenges. As a matter of priority, we must overcome such challenges, if we are to make the most of the opportunity created by the deployment of the RPF in Juba and put the country back on the path towards sustainable peace and stability.

First, I would like to say a few words on the security environment, which remains extremely volatile. Clearly, South Sudan is in need of an effective and credible ceasefire. Since the Government announced the declaration of a unilateral ceasefire in June, there have been worrisome reports of active military operations in Greater Equatoria and Upper Nile states. On 7 July, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) received a credible report that the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) has moved towards Mathiang in Upper Nile, after which heavy fighting was reported. The aim of the offensive seems to be to capture opposition-held areas all the way to Pagak. Similarly, clashes have continued between the Sudan People's Liberation Army in Opposition and SPLA troops near Torit in Eastern Equatoria, where UNMISS has recently had to reinforce its presence owing to heavy fighting in the area. Obviously, the nature of those operations ran contrary to the unilateral ceasefire declared by the Government.

Secondly, the Government has publicly expressed its commitment to creating an environment conducive to the national dialogue and that is, of course, to be welcomed and encouraged. At the same time, there have been recently certain decisions that undermine those commitments. On 17 July, two republican decrees were issued, replacing six members of the Sudan People's Liberation Army in Opposition of the Transitional National Legislative Assembly, who are linked to Riek Machar, with members who are aligned with First Vice President Taban Deng Gai, and that certainly further excludes a key constituency of the peace process.

On 18 July, the websites of two important media outlets were blocked after they criticized the Government and, once again, that raises questions about the respect for the freedom of expression. On 10 July, the national security services arrested the Director General of the State-run South Sudan National Broadcasting Corporation. We understand that he has now been released, but clearly all those actions point to the need for the South Sudanese authorities to make more sustained efforts towards creating an environment that is conducive to the conduct of a credible national dialogue.

With respect to the national dialogue, we believe that every effort should be made to ensure that the process is inclusive and transparent, takes place in a free and secure environment, has clear outcomes that complement the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan, and is supported by a sufficiently broad political consensus from all of the political forces in the country. That is critical in order to ensure that the national dialogue is not displaced or

rejected by the opposition and does not lead to more disputes, fighting, fragmentation and displacement in the country.

I stress that President Mogae, the Chairperson of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission, will brief the Council on the implementation status of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan and on the proposed revitalization process led by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and endorsed by the IGAD Summit. The success of that initiative will definitely depend on the extent to which the Government and the opposition embrace it and commit to its full implementation. That IGAD initiative is an important development that requires active international support, including from the Security Council. I would therefore encourage the Security Council to, once again, express its full support for the IGAD-led process and to urge all South Sudanese stakeholders to embrace that process as a genuine opportunity to restore peace in the country.

In conclusion, I would like to underline the critical importance of the unity of purpose of the region, as well as unity between the region and the rest of the international community, and the need for all concerned members of the international community to send a strong message to the South Sudanese stakeholders that the current status quo is unacceptable and unsustainable. A change in behaviour is long overdue for the sake of the people of South Sudan, and the pursuit of political objectives through violence, which continues, unfortunately, to exact a heavy toll on the people of South Sudan, should not be allowed to continue.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Mr. Wane for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. Mogae.

Mr. Mogae: I would like to thank the President of the Security Council, His Excellency Mr. Liu Jieyi, for kindly inviting me to brief the Security Council today.

The Council will recall that in my most recent briefing in March (see S/PV.7906), we were confronted with unprecedented hostilities targeting civilians that resulted in gross human rights abuses, violations of international humanitarian law, a dramatic increase in the number of refugees and internally displaced persons, and an appalling humanitarian crisis in the country. In that context, I posed the following questions. How do we stop the fighting? How do we stop people from dying of starvation, and how do we ensure the inclusion of all parties — communities and stakeholders — in the peace process so as to allow for peace, relief and inclusivity?

Immediately after that briefing, my team devised and drafted the One Voice initiative, which is a 12-point message from all of us to the South Sudanese leadership, demanding the cessation of hostilities and the restoration of the permanent ceasefire. It remains as pertinent and relevant today as it was when it was written. With the blessing of the Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), His Excellency Mr. Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of Ethiopia, I engaged in a comprehensive and constant round of consultations with all the critical stakeholders, specifically in line with our One Voice initiative and the pursuit of peace.

I have maintained regular and forthright dialogue with the President of the Republic of South Sudan, His Excellency Mr. Salva Kiir Mayardit, and the First Vice President, General Taban Deng Gai, while constantly reiterating our message of peace, humanitarian relief and political inclusivity. I have met and briefed IGAD Heads of State and Government, the IGAD Council of Ministers, the African Union Commission Chairperson, His Excellency Mr. Faki Mahamat, and the African Union Peace and Security Council. I have also met with His Excellency Mr. Omar Al-Bashir, President of the Sudan; His Excellency Mr. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of Uganda, and His Excellency Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of Kenya, for the purpose of identifying a way out of the escalating violence and humanitarian crisis.

I appeal to IGAD, the African Union, the United Nations and our international partners to adopt One Voice in our common engagement with the leaders of South Sudan. I underscore the need for the leaders of the region to align their messages and actions so as to prevent the situation in South Sudan from deteriorating even further. The leaders of the region expressed their grave concern about the recent escalation of violence, the ongoing violations of the permanent ceasefire, and the worsening humanitarian situation in the country. They emphasized that the conflict in the country requires a political — not a military — solution. They demanded wide inclusivity in the dialogue among the belligerents.

In South Africa, I met with the Vice President of the Republic of South Africa, His Excellency Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa, in his capacity as South Africa's Special Envoy to South Sudan. I also met with Dr. Riek Machar, former First Vice President of the Republic of South Sudan. The message I conveyed to Mr. Machar was to renounce violence, declare a unilateral ceasefire and participate in the national dialogue. He declined to do so. However, he demanded a new political process for the region outside South Sudan.

I have also taken the time to meet with some of the key Sudanese stakeholders in opposition and currently out of the country. I met with Ms. Rebecca Nyandeng Garang de Mabior and former detainees, Pa'gan Amum, Kosti Manibe, Mr. Majak D'Agoot and Mr. Cirino Hiteng. I also met with Mr. Lam Akol, Thomas Cirilo, James Oryema and others in order to listen to their grievances. My message to all of them was that those who are still fighting should stop immediately for the sake of the country that they claim to love so much, and that all serious parties should pursue a political path to return to the peace process.

In principle, most welcomed my message. Like Mr. Riek Machar, they demanded a negotiated ceasefire and expressed their willingness to participate in a credible political process outside South Sudan, which might lead to their return with the implementation of the peace agreement. In that regard, they underlined the importance of the deployment of the Regional Protection Force. I hope that by engaging with such determination, we will drive a peaceful, open and transparent dialogue, which is imperative if we are to achieve an inclusive political process and to silence the guns

Accordingly, IGAD held an extraordinary Summit of the Heads of State and Government in Addis Ababa on 12 June and, following my recommendation, they decided to convene a high-level revitalization forum of the parties to the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan, including estranged groups, with a view to discussing concrete measures aimed at restoring a permanent ceasefire, returning to the full implementation of the peace Agreement and developing a revised and realistic timeline and implementation schedule for democratic elections at the end of the transition.

We welcome that timely decision of the IGAD leadership to seize the opportunity to end the senseless fighting, revitalize the implementation of the peace Agreement and restore hope to the people of South Sudan. The revitalization of the implementation of the peace Agreement is not a renegotiation. The forum will explore options that can restore dynamism and prominence to the peace process. It is our hope that such a revitalization process will be pursued in the spirit of peace, inclusivity and compromise. I hope that all reasonable and positive proposals to restore and reinforce the effective implementation of the peace Agreement will be put forward, discussed and considered at the forum. I encourage all parties and estranged groups to seize this opportunity to put the country first, make compromises and accommodate one another for the sake of peace.

Pursuant to its mandate, the IGAD Council of Ministers met on 2 July and adopted guidelines and an indicative matrix for the convening of the high-level revitalization forum within three months. The revitalization process is intended to ensure the broadest possible consultation with stakeholders and to generate proposals that could make the implementation of the peace Agreement more accommodating, viable and sustainable.

Ultimately, the success of that process will require a willingness on the part of the parties to the peace Agreement, and the estranged groups to compromise and accommodate one another politically. A window of opportunity has opened, and we must all seize it. I believe that, with a resolute and unified approach on the part of IGAD, the African Union, the United Nations and the international community — and with cooperation from the South Sudanese leaders — we can recover lost ground and restore hope to the people of South Sudan.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Mr. Mogae for his briefing.

I shall now give the floor to Council members who wish to make statements.

Ms. Sison (United States of America): I thank Assistant Secretary-General Wane and President Mogae for their briefings.

When it comes to South Sudan, we have heard lots of promises. We hear promises from South Sudan's leaders that they will finally get serious about pursuing peace. We hear promises that they will allow aid to reach the starving and the sick, as well as promises that

humanitarian workers will not be harassed when they try to do their jobs. And on the basis of those promises, the Security Council waits and waits. We wait for things to change in South Sudan, but nothing is changing in the country. The violence continues. Horrific atrocities are reported so often that they become almost routine. People continue to flee across South Sudan's borders to neighbouring countries. United Nations peacekeepers continue to face obstacles in carrying out their mandate to protect civilians. And humanitarians are blocked from delivering life-saving assistance.

For the people of South Sudan life is worse than ever before. The Council needs to hold the parties on the ground accountable for their broken promises. Consider first the violence — the Council has been calling for a ceasefire in South Sudan since the fighting escalated more than a year ago. In May, the Government declared a unilateral ceasefire but, rather than hold their fire, Government forces have been opening up new battlefronts. Those military operations are forcing thousands of people from their homes. The fighting has forced dozens of humanitarian workers to be evacuated, leaving even more civilians without any help. It is a travesty, truly a travesty.

Commitment to a ceasefire is just one broken promise and the protection of civilians is another. A few weeks ago, United Nations peacekeepers tried to reach an orphanage to help get 250 kids out of harm's way. The United Nations was doing its job, but authorities would not allow the peacekeepers to pass. It is hard to believe, but it is true. Fortunately, the United Nations was eventually able to get there after a delay, but thousands of other civilians cannot be reached. They remain trapped by fighting and are unable to receive any assistance whatsoever.

Humanitarian aid has eased famine in certain parts of the country, but the overall trend is getting worse, not better. Hunger in South Sudan has reached unprecedented levels. More than 6 million people are now severely food insecure — half of South Sudan's population. A total of 1.7 million people are on the brink of starving to death because of the inability of aid agencies to reach them. According to United Nations statistics, June was the worst month for access by aid workers so far this year. Despite promising to stop, the Government is still asking humanitarian groups to pay high fees just to continue operating in the country. The humanitarian community is in a position to help, but the Government and fighters on the ground need to allow them to get to the people in need.

In short, another month has passed with no improvement on the ground. In March, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2017/4) with a number of specific demands. We called on the parties to stop fighting, commit to a political process and allow for unfettered humanitarian access — but virtually none of those steps happened. The Council must be prepared to hold the parties accountable for their inaction and for the continued suffering of South Sudan's people. The Council must put real pressure on the parties to change their behaviour. That should start with additional targeted sanctions and an arms embargo. Those measures would show that the Council is serious about pushing for an end to the fighting and a return to the negotiating table.

The United States appreciates that the region has appointed a new Special Envoy and will convene a high-level revitalization forum to support a ceasefire in a political process. The forum has broad support from South Sudan's international partners, including endorsement from the African Union. Tragically, the support for a new forum shows that international partners do not have confidence that South Sudan's leaders are taking meaningful steps to live up to their obligations as signatories to the 2015 peace Agreement.

It is high time for action. The revitalization process is the last chance for salvaging the peace Agreement. The United States very much hopes that it will lead to a realistic and meaningful outcome. If South Sudan's leaders do not participate in the high-level forum in good faith and stick to its deadlines, the United States will need to review its position and priorities with regard to support for the peace agreement and its implementing bodies. The bottom line is that we want this regional mediation to succeed, and we need to see South Sudan's leaders truly engaged in it at long last. The people of South Sudan deserve leaders who live up to their promises.

Even facing extreme hardship, the people have not given up hope of something better. There is one town a few hours south of the capital where 70 per cent of the population reportedly fled after fighting broke out. But a small group of children, including many orphans, stayed and found shelter at a local Catholic school. At that school, according to a report from the United

Nations, 14 teachers are volunteering to help the kids. The school's motto is: we cannot surrender.

When those young kids were asked what they wanted, one child put it very simply:

> "I want to beg our leaders, let them bring peace to South Sudan, so that South Sudanese children will enjoy their life like the one of long ago".

Those kids are facing impossible challenges, and they have not given up on a dream of peace for South Sudan. Neither can we. We in the international community can and must act to make the promise of peace a reality.

Mr. Rycroft (United Kingdom): I thank the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Wane, and President Mogae for their briefings. Let me take this opportunity to reiterate the full support of the United Kingdom for their work and for the work of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan.

I would not normally take the floor before consultations, but the horrifying and entrenched situation in South Sudan compels me to speak out.

Two weeks ago, the people of South Sudan should have been celebrating that young country's Independence Day. They should have been celebrating six years of progress, six years of a country learning to stand on its own two feet. But six years on, South Sudan is not standing. It is barely even crawling, stifled by its leaders, who would rather serve their own ends than help their country. Six years of their rule has left over half the population without enough food — 6 million people dependent on humanitarian assistance just to survive.

Make no mistake: this is a crisis of human creation, a crisis that the leaders of South Sudan have had six years to prevent. But, instead of helping, they have poured fuel on the fire. We need only look at the ongoing fighting across the country between the Government and the opposition forces. In Pagak, for example, the Government offensive has displaced thousands of civilians into Ethiopia. Aid workers have been evacuated. The already desperate humanitarian situation has been made even worse. Yet when the Government is asked about Pagak, we hear different stories from different people. Some say there has been no violence there. Others argue that the offensive was for self-defence. Let us be clear: the violence is happening there, and it is not self-defence. It is a blatant infringement of the ceasefire that President Salva Kiir declared only a few months ago.

Not content with misleading their people and the international community, the Government of South Sudan has systematically clamped down on the media and on access to information. Last Friday, Internet service providers in South Sudan were ordered to block media outlets with which the Government disagrees. The head of State television was reported to have been arrested for failing to broadcast President Kiir's Independence Day speech.

The Government says it is committed to media freedom, but its actions speak otherwise. What the Government of South Sudan says bears no relation to what it does. In June we saw humanitarian access being blocked 100 times, the highest number in a month in 2017 so far. In addition, ceasefire monitors have been blocked on multiple occasions by Government troops from investigating incidents of reported violence. That is all in clear violation of the peace Agreement, and all at the cost of the South Sudanese people.

Until we see the Government's actions match its words, the Council has no choice but to take measures to protect peace and security. For the United Kingdom, that means returning to the issue of an arms embargo on South Sudan once again. We must do all we can to stop the uncontrolled flow of weapons that is driving this violence.

In parallel, we should continue to work with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development to support their high-level revitalization forum initiative. The first priority for that must be to bring an end to the fighting. That will require a negotiated ceasefire or a cessation of hostilities agreement among a broad and meaningful range of armed actors. It will require national and local initiatives, and we must be clear that any actors blocking peace will face consequences.

But, in truth, we have said all of this before. In this Chamber back in May (see S/PV.7950), I said that we were not yet fulfilling our responsibilities as the Council to the people of South Sudan. Two months on, that is, I am afraid, still the case. The parties continue to put violence before peace. That cannot continue. We have a unique window of opportunity before the end of the rainy season to make meaningful progress in South Sudan. Should we fail in our efforts, South Sudan will

enter into a fifth year of conflict. For a country that is only six years old, that is simply heart-breaking.

Mr. Alemu (Ethiopia): We thank the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Wane, for his briefing, which is, as usual, very useful, balanced and insightful. We are also very grateful to President Mogae, the very wise man of our region, in whom we take great pride, for his remarks and for his dedicated efforts to carry out difficult responsibilities in challenging circumstances. We in the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) remain indebted to him.

The worsening security situation in South Sudan is deeply worrying for us in the region. Despite the declaration by His Excellency President Salva Kiir of a unilateral ceasefire, which we appreciate, fighting has continued unabated across several parts of the country, with devastating consequences for the civilian population. The recent escalation of the conflict in Upper Nile state and the declaration of a state of emergency in four states show the deterioration of the situation.

The cessation of all hostilities and violence in the country is indeed a matter of urgent priority if we are to alleviate the suffering of the South Sudanese people, who have endured so much for far too long. That would create an environment in which it would be possible to address the dire humanitarian situation, including by facilitating humanitarian access. The high number of incidents and obstacles faced by humanitarian agencies, including the killing of humanitarian personnel and the denial of access for the delivery of humanitarian supplies, continue to pose serious challenges and should be of serious concern. We call upon all the parties to take urgent measures to facilitate unhindered access to the affected population.

We also call upon the international community to urgently step up efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to save lives and support the suffering people of South Sudan. There have been reported incidents affecting the ceasefire and transitional security arrangements that have prevented Monitoring Mechanism teams from carrying out their duties by both parties.

As much as we appreciate the effort, it is extremely difficult to talk about joint and inclusive political dialogue while there is ongoing fighting throughout the country. That is why all parties must immediately renounce violence and urgently take joint steps to cease all hostilities.

As IGAD has reiterated, the full implementation of the 2015 peace Agreement remains the only viable way forward to bring an end to the conflict and restore peace and stability in South Sudan. The lack of meaningful progress in the implementation of the Agreement has indeed been a source of great concern, necessitating the reinvigoration of the peace process so as to ensure the full implementation of the Agreement through greater inclusivity, forgiveness and reconciliation.

It is in that context that the IGAD Summit decided to urgently convene a high-level revitilization forum of the parties to the Agreement, including estranged groups, to discuss concrete measures to restore a permanent ceasefire, to fully implement the peace agreement and to develop a revised and realistic timeline and implementation schedule leading towards a democratic election at the end of the transition period.

A clear guideline and implementation matrix for the high-level forum has been approved by the fifty-seventh extraordinary session of the IGAD Council of Ministers. The IGAD Council of Ministers and Chiefs of Staff will soon meet in Juba as per the approved matrix and guideline. The Council of Ministers will be travelling to Juba next Monday, and it would be proper for the Security Council to strongly support that effort. The Council should lend its unreserved support to such regional efforts and send a strong and unified message to all the parties in South Sudan to encourage them to seriously and constructively engage in the peace process. We reiterate the importance of maintaining the unity of purpose among IGAD, the African Union (AU) and the United Nations, including the Security Council, in the search for lasting peace, security and stability in South Sudan.

President Mogae has been urging for some time, as he did a while ago, that the principle of one voice — all of us the speaking with one voice — should be our guide. That might in fact be the silver bullet that we need to make serious progress in South Sudan for peace: one voice, one action. Sometimes the answer might lie in the simple, in the manifestly least complicated.

In that regard, I should add that there is no viable alternative to the efforts being carried out by IGAD in coordination with the AU and the United Nations. We in the IGAD region remain as steadfast as ever in our resolve to cooperate with the African Union and

the United Nations in bringing about lasting peace in South Sudan. That was reflected in the recent decision of the IGAD Summit and the Council of Ministers, which reaffirmed the region's firm resolve to work closely with the AU and the United Nations in its reinvigoration effort. The African Union, at its twenty-ninth ordinary session of the Assembly, also endorsed those regional efforts, including the convening of the high-level revitalization forum of the peace Agreement. We encourage such coordination and collaboration efforts on the part of IGAD, the AU and the United Nations and urge that such efforts continue to be further strengthened. I am reiterating again the one-voice principle.

Finally, no matter what we in the region and the rest of the international community may do, the success of the reinvigoration process, as we work to address the enormous challenge that South Sudan is facing, will depend to a great degree on the willingness of all the parties. We hope that all South Sudanese parties will rise to the challenge and work towards the restoration of peace through genuine dialogue and reconciliation.

Mr. Rosselli (Uruguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to join other speakers in thanking Mr. Wane and Mr. Mogae for their respective briefings.

As was pointed out in this Chamber last month (see S/PV.7982), it has been six years since South Sudan declared its independence, but very few celebrations have been able to take place, given the fact that the country is still submerged in a deep crisis, with 6 million South Sudanese facing food insecurity and millions of South Sudanese who have been displaced from their homes owing to armed conflicts.

I am going to be very brief because some colleagues who spoke before me have analysed many of the points that we were going to mention, in particular, for example, what was said by Ambassador Sison with respect to the litany of commitments that have not been fulfilled over the past few months, and the frustrations over the obstacles that the South Sudanese Government still imposes on the functioning of United Nations forces. Also, as was pointed out recently by Ambassador Rycroft, we are absolutely convinced that this crisis is strictly the result of a conflict of personal ambitions between two of the country's political leaders, who have placed their own ambitions of attaining power above the needs of their citizens. What a contrast with the example of Colombia and its efforts in its peace process. What a contrast between some people who are brave enough to do everything for peace and others who continue just to wage war and seek strictly personal benefits. That is truly very sad.

Fortunately, in the midst of all of this, we must recognize the tireless efforts of the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission in trying to relaunch a political process. However, no effort by the Security Council, the African Union or IGAD will be even the least bit successful if the political leaders of South Sudan do not commit to fulfilling their people's needs.

Mr. Delattre (France) (*spoke in French*): I would like to thank the Chinese presidency for organizing this important meeting. I also wish to thank the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. El-Ghassim Wane, and the Chair of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission, President Festus Mogae, for their commitment and enlightening briefings. I would like to focus on two points.

First of all, our mobilization is more necessary than ever, given the suffering that is affecting more and more civilians. Despite the rainy season, the fighting continues in South Sudan, with tragic consequences for civilians. The recent clashes around Pagak have led to more people fleeing their homes, thereby further increasing the flow of displaced persons and refugees. The humanitarian situation remains catastrophic. Although the state of famine has been lifted in certain areas of the country, the spectre of starvation and malnutrition still hangs over too many civilians. Women and children are always the first victims.

In that context, I would like to commend the efforts of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), which has adopted a robust posture so as to fulfil its mandate to protect civilians. We call on it to continue working to that end, but the unacceptable obstacles to its efforts and to that of humanitarian workers are still too numerous. France vigorously condemns them.

The primary responsibility to protect civilians rests with the Government of South Sudan. We therefore call on it to do its utmost to ensure smooth cooperation with UNMISS and to facilitate access for humanitarian organizations and workers. That includes allowing access to all areas where civilians are at risk.

Finally, almost a year after its establishment, the Regional Protection Force must also be allowed to deploy fully. We welcome the most recent positive developments in that regard, but there are still many challenges and bottlenecks that must be resolved.

The Council must also assume its responsibilities. We must ensure that a cessation of hostilities is concluded and implemented as soon as possible. We must also continue to seriously consider ways to reduce the level of violence in the country; France has long believed that an arms embargo would contribute to that goal.

Secondly, the encouraging signs on the political front must, with our support, be focused on and materialized.

Certain recent political developments offer grounds for hope that true political progress can take place. We welcome in particular the establishment, during the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Council of Ministers held on 2 July, of modalities and a timeline for the implementation of the high-level revitalization forum for the peace agreement in South Sudan. That decision should make it possible to fuel current efforts to relaunch the political process.

We also welcome the actions taken by various players in support of the political process. We commend the efforts of the IGAD Special Envoy, the High Representative of the African Union, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General and, of course, yours, President Mogae, as well as those of Uganda and Kenya, whose initiatives should help move the peace process forward. France supports the efforts of all of these players, and it should be noted that effective coordination among them is a key condition for ensuring the success of their work.

This mobilization must make it possible to achieve progress in the implementation of the 2015 peace agreement, which remains the cornerstone of the political process. The national dialogue must be truly inclusive so as to create a positive and lasting dynamic.

Nor must we lose sight of the need to fight impunity or of the imperative of ensuring accountability for those who have committed human rights violations. This means establishing, as soon as possible, a hybrid court, with the African Union playing a leading role therein.

Summer 2015 was one of hope, with the signing of the peace agreement. Summer 2016 was one of disillusion and violence, with the Juba crisis in July. This summer must be one of sustainable progress; we owe it to the people of that country, who have suffered for far too long.

Mr. Skoog (Sweden): I wish to start by thanking Assistant Secretary-General Wane and President Mogae for their comprehensive briefings to the Council this morning.

The political, security and humanitarian situation in South Sudan remains deeply concerning. The ongoing conflict continues to have a profound impact on the people of South Sudan, with almost 2 million people having fled the country and half of the remaining population in need of assistance. As has been said before, a political solution is the only way to resolve the conflict and to end the suffering of the people. Efforts to that end must therefore be redoubled and encouraged.

In this regard, we welcome the recent initiatives by South Sudan's neighbours, in particular the decision by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to convene a high-level revitalization forum and the approval by the IGAD Council of Ministers of a detailed timeline to implement this decision. The forum should help move the parties towards a permanent ceasefire and a credible political process. We also welcome the efforts made by Uganda and President Museveni, as well as by the African Union, in supporting the process. The commitment of IGAD to engage all parties, including estranged groups and other stakeholders, is particularly important. Let me take this opportunity to also underscore the need to strengthen the role and participation of women in this process.

At the same time, we are deeply concerned at the fact that, in spite of these regional efforts and the repeated declarations by President Kiir of a unilateral ceasefire, reports of intensive fighting continue. Recent confrontations around Pagak and Torit are particularly worrying and show that the Sudan People's Liberation Army has launched new offensive operations, calling into question the political will to find a peaceful solution. We call on all parties to immediately lay down their arms and to adhere to the ceasefire, as the Council has stressed on numerous occasions. While this is first and foremost a humanitarian imperative, there can never be a meaningful political process unless the fighting is brought to an end, as the representatives of Ethiopia and other countries have emphasized this morning.

In the face of these latest developments, it is essential that the Security Council remain unified and reinforce the intensified regional efforts. We have

called for an end to the violence and impunity; for increased humanitarian access; for the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) to be able to do its work; and for support for the implementation of the peace agreement. It has to be made clear that we intend to follow through on our decisions.

Our efforts should also continue to be well coordinated with those of the region. We look forward to the visit by the IGAD Council of Ministers to Juba next week. This will be an important opportunity to engage the parties on the need to immediately adhere to a ceasefire, facilitate humanitarian access and engage in a meaningful political process. Today's meeting makes clear that the IGAD delegation has our full support and backing.

The humanitarian situation, particularly in terms of food security, continues to worsen. Meanwhile, humanitarian access is becoming more restricted, with 100 humanitarian-access incidents reported in June, the highest number recorded in one month so far in 2017, as others have mentioned. Further humanitarian financing is needed, and humanitarian access must remain a key priority.

We commend UNMISS for responding swiftly to ensure the protection of civilians in South Sudan. As outlined in the Secretary-General's report, women, girls and children have borne the brunt of the crisis. We encourage UNMISS to continue to respond proactively to those who are particularly vulnerable, including to address sexual and gender-based violence. We commend Special Representative Shearer for engaging the Government in operationalizing the proposed "one-stop shop" to ensure that UNMISS can operate effectively, and we call on the Government to swiftly establish this mechanism.

The longer this conflict is allowed to continue, the harder the road to recovery, reconciliation and peace will be. The leadership being shown by regional actors deserves our active support, as a united, proactive and assertive effort towards peace is long overdue.

Mr. Inchauste Jordán (Plurinational State of Bolivia) (*spoke in Spanish*): We thank the delegation of China for having convened this open briefing, as the Security Council must continually follow up the situation in South Sudan. We also express our thanks for the information provided today by Assistant Secretary-General El-Ghassim Wane. We welcome his work and that of his team, work that they are carrying out in the very difficult context that we are seeing today in the youngest country in the world. We also welcome in particular Mr. Festus Mogae, Chairperson of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission. Bolivia reiterates its support for and acknowledgement of his work.

In January 2011, more than 98 per cent of the citizens of South Sudan chose independence; that became a reality on 9 July that year. Today, unfortunately, six years after the South Sudanese achieved independence, the unity that they showed then has evaporated.

The Republic of South Sudan is tackling an economic, political, security and humanitarian crisis that continues to prevent many of its citizens from seeing the objectives of independence actually take shape. Bolivia's desire is for the brotherly South Sudanese people to enjoy the peace and development that they deserve and that a country with such potential could offer them.

We take note of the conciliatory message delivered by President Salva Kiir on the sixth anniversary of independence. He stated that war was not an option and appealed to those who had not yet done so to respect the ceasefire.

The first step towards achieving peace is the cessation of hostilities. We must continue to work towards that, and the international community must support the efforts that have been made recently in that respect. However, it is the South Sudanese themselves who should lead the process, and the full commitment of all players is vital. Internal divisions and rivalries, both within the Government and in the opposition, must be set aside, as must all differences relating to who governs and who aspires to govern. The well-being of the country's citizens must always be the main objective.

Restoring momentum to the political process is only the second step. Ensuring the implementation of the 2015 Agreement is the way to proceed. Inclusiveness and genuine dialogue are fundamental ingredients. As Special Envoy Haysom — to whose efforts we reiterate our support — mentioned in a previous briefing, there is some agreement between the opposition groups and the Government. The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) has a very important role to play in that regard. We await the convening of the high-level revitalization forum on the 2015 agreement. In that context, we welcome the appointment of Ambassador

Ismail Wais as IGAD's Special Envoy for South Sudan and assure him of our unconditional support for his work.

Bolivia would like to reiterate its support for regional efforts in the quest for a solution to the situation. As the IGAD communiqué of 2 July states, the African Union, the United Nations and the other IGAD partners must support the efforts to revitalize the Agreement. It is therefore important to highlight President Mogae's efforts to revive the political process. His recommendations will be very important for the forum that IGAD has called for.

We also note that the famine in the country is under control. We greatly appreciate the tremendous efforts of humanitarian workers and the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) to that end, but there is still much to be done. The latest figures from the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs indicate that 6 million people — 50 per cent of the population — will need food assistance this month. It will be crucial to ensure that there is unhindered, safe access for humanitarian aid and for UNMISS.

With regard to the deployment of the Regional Protection Force, we welcome the progress that the engineering and rapid-deployment companies have made, which we hope they will complete this month. We encourage UNMISS and the Government to work together to achieve that. The help that the Regional Protection Force can give UNMISS is essential if it is to be able to guarantee the protection of civilians. For example, security improvements in rural areas are linked to agricultural development, which is important to increasing economic production, and crop production in particular, so as to fight famine and improve the living conditions of the South Sudanese. Lastly in that regard, we should highlight the significant work being done by UNMISS, which has ramped up its patrols on the ground. We appreciate the steps it is taking in order to improve the effectiveness of its efforts.

Mr. Cardi (Italy): I, too, would like to thank Assistant Secretary-General Wane and President Mogae for their briefings today.

The situation on the ground continues to be pretty terrible. Half of the population of South Sudan needs food or other aid. The South Sudanese authorities continue to violate the status of forces agreement, including in cases of the arrest and arbitrary detention of the personnel of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). Despite the commitments on allowing unhindered humanitarian access, there has been an increasing number of attacks on humanitarian workers. The human rights situation is also worsening, with 250 children trapped between the clashing parties and an increase in arrests of journalists, to give just two examples. Despite the Government's announcement of a unilateral ceasefire, the fighting rages on. In that context, I would like to commend the Sudan for the one-year deal it has offered to permit the flow of aid to South Sudanese refugees after the opening of the humanitarian corridors, in an affirmation of the constructive spirit shown by Khartoum in this crisis.

We reiterate our firm belief that the only solution to the crisis is a political one, a position that we have taken in previous Council meetings, bilaterally and as co-Chair of the Partners Forum of the 12 June Summit of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). It is also clear to all of us that, without the collaboration of the members of IGAD, there can be no peace in South Sudan. Together with the African Union and the United Nations, IGAD is the organization that can and must develop a political track for inclusive dialogue between the parties to the conflict in South Sudan. We therefore greatly appreciate the growing intensity of its diplomatic action in recent weeks.

The communiqué of the IGAD ministerial Summit on 2 July is an important step in that direction. We also agree with the Secretary-General that the deployment of the Regional Protection Force to Juba, which is slowly proceeding, will help UNMISS to concentrate more effectively on other areas of the country. We therefore call on the South Sudanese authorities to facilitate its rapid deployment.

But that will not be a panacea. It is the South Sudanese leaders who must negotiate the peace. They have the responsibility for ending the conflict and to feed and protect their population, or face accountability for failing in that. In that regard, the work of establishing a hybrid court must be speeded up.

In conclusion, Italy will continue to work on two fronts. At the political level, we will make efforts in every possible forum to encourage a solution to the crisis, starting with South Sudan's stakeholders, including civil society and regional stakeholders. At the humanitarian level, we will provide aid and financing programmes aimed at addressing the country's emergencies. We also look forward to hearing from Under-Secretary-General

Lacroix, who is currently visiting the region, and we hope that, at the upcoming IGAD ministerial Summit on 24 July, the indirect communication channel that has been reopened between the South Sudanese leaders can reinvigorate the process.

Mr. Iliichev (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We thank Assistant Secretary-General Wane for his substantive briefing. We are also obliged to the Secretary-General for the balanced assessment he has given once again in his monthly report, and grateful to President Mogae for his detailed statement.

We share the view that the situation in South Sudan can be stabilized only through a sustainable ceasefire and the start of an inclusive national reconciliation process. The South Sudan crisis has already had severe humanitarian consequences. The worst impact of its escalation has been in the subregion, where it has resulted in a significant increase in the influx of refugees into neighbouring countries. In that regard, we would like to note the constructive attitude of South Sudan's neighbours, particularly the Sudan, in helping to alleviate the humanitarian situation. We also do not think it fair to blame the ongoing violence exclusively on Juba, which had already announced a ceasefire unilaterally. It is crucial to ensure that the opposition takes similar steps. We continue to believe that the threatened sanctions will not help to solve the crisis, and they might in fact make it worse — a view that coincides with that of the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and other countries of the region.

We note that advance units of the Regional Protection Force began deploying to South Sudan in May. We assume that IGAD and the United Nations Secretariat will continue to work with the South Sudan authorities on mutually acceptable modalities for that operation. We would like to point out that Juba has maintained its constructive position on the issue of the Regional Protection Force, as the Government's decision on providing plots of land for its bases testifies. We urge South Sudan and its troop-contributing countries to work together to enable the Regional Force to reach operational readiness.

We are hoping for success for the national dialogue initiated in May by President Kiir with the participation of all ethnic groups, political stakeholders and population sectors, with the goal of achieving national reconciliation and an end to the conflict in South Sudan, and we urge everyone to give it their full support. We would like to note the personal efforts of Secretary-General António Guterres in this area, and we welcome the coordinated efforts that regional actors are making to facilitate a settlement in Southern Sudan. Nor should we neglect to mention the initiative launched at IGAD's June Summit for the revitalization of the South Sudan peace Agreement and the regional stakeholders' efforts to implement it.

We trust that the Ugandan-mediated contacts with South Sudanese parties will also bear fruit. At the same time, we would like to caution against excessive optimism. The political process is only just beginning. There is a great deal of laborious work that lies ahead if we want to see a convergence of positions and seek compromises. We hope that the cooperation among the United Nations, the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development will demonstrate its effectiveness.

Mr. Sadykov (Kazakhstan): I would like to join previous speakers in thanking Assistant Secretary-General Wane and President Mogae for their comprehensive, insightful briefings. My delegation would like to make the following observations and recommendations.

We are gravely concerned that, despite the unilateral ceasefire declared by the transitional Government in May, the Sudan People's Liberation Army continues to fight.

It is also equally alarming that incidents concerning humanitarian access and violence against the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and humanitarian personnel have sharply escalated, which has led to an increase in internally displaced persons. Such hostile actions undermine efforts made by the transitional Government and the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission to facilitate the peace process, further deteriorating humanitarian and security conditions.

In that regard we urge that all parties to the conflict immediately cease hostilities, especially in Equatoria and the Greater Upper Nile region. We also urge all parties stop attacks on humanitarian workers, so that access to famine-affected locations is not impacted. We also urge that UNMISS staff members not face arbitrary arrests or detention.

We welcome the recent decision of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to convene a revitalization forum, which will include all parties. It will allow parties to discuss how to effectively implement the peace Agreement and prepare for the forthcoming democratic elections. We hope that the outcome of the forum will lay the necessary foundations to help build stable State institutions. Simultaneously, we need to ensure that the national dialogue launched in May is thoroughly inclusive and transparent. In order to achieve true political progress, we urge the transitional Government to demonstrate political will and engage positively with the United Nations and regional actors.

There is a need for closer cooperation and assistance from the United Nations, the African Union, IGAD, the Chair of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission, leaders of neighbouring countries and other international partners. Only coordinated and united efforts will bring about the long-awaited peace and stability to South Sudan. It is our strong conviction that the Government should speedily allocate personnel to operate the proposed one-stop-shop, which would the free up the Mission's operations and the movement of UNMISS patrols.

We would like to pay sincere tribute to UNMISS personnel and Special Representative for South Sudan Shearer for working in such a difficult environment on the ground.

To conclude, Kazakhstan fully supports the concerted efforts of the United Nations, the African Union and IGAD. We will work with the Council and key actors to find a lasting solution to the conflict in South Sudan, which should remain high on our priority list.

Mr. Seck (Senegal) (*spoke in French*): Senegal is not in the habit of delivering a statement following briefings or consultations. Accordingly, my remarks will be very brief.

We commend and thank Mr. El-Ghassim Wane, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, as well as His Excellency President Festus Mogae. We thank them for their clarifying briefings. I shall limit my remarks to one question.

Given that we have all reached agreement regarding our own observations of the situation, what is it that we are to do as members of the Security Council? We have all said that there is a need for coordination between the subregion and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, between the region and the African Union, and at United Nations, particularly the Security Council. I raise the question because in a few moments we will meet in informal consultations, when the Security Council can at last take concrete measures.

Mr. Yelchenko (Ukraine): I join my colleagues in thanking today's briefers for their valuable presentations. I have three brief points to highlight.

First, the security situation is deeply concerning to say the least. Ukraine strongly condemns the armed clashes that took place on Monday in Gogrial state, which involved local communities. A cattle dispute was transformed into a full-scale armed battle, during which a number of people were killed and many more wounded. That serves to underline the fact that the situation in South Sudan remains extremely fragile, even in areas that were previously considered peaceful. We took note of the fact that, in response to the incident, President Kiir declared a three-month state of emergency in some parts of the country. He also ordered the establishment of an investigation committee. It is important to ensure that those involved in the killings are held accountable.

We are no less concerned about the recent reports that Government troops have begun their military advance towards the stronghold of the position in Pagak. Armed clashes between the two sides in neighbourhoods of the city have already resulted in thousands of civilians fleeing their homes.

As to my second point, on the political process, we have been closely following the ongoing consultations in the region on how to advance peace in South Sudan. We welcome the conclusion of the recently held extraordinary session of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development Council of Ministers on South Sudan, which adopted guidelines to spearhead the revitalization of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan and the road map towards the high-level revitalization forum.

It is not the first time that we expect the parties to demonstrate, once and for all, real goodwill towards reaching an agreement on the restoration of the permanent ceasefire and to start preparations, with a realistic timeline, for the holding of democratic elections. Unless that process is all-inclusive, it has no chance of succeeding.

My last point is with regard to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). We lament that obstructions to the work of UNMISS and humanitarian organizations work are continuing. Those obstructions negatively affect the Mission's ability to effectively implement crucially important tasks mandated by the Security Council. The Mission and humanitarian actors must have unhindered access to the affected areas in order to help those in need, in particular in the areas affected by the recent armed clashes. Ukraine remains convinced that the Security Council should speak with one voice. It has to continue to be engaged with the Government of South Sudan, both collectively and bilaterally, in order to remove impediments UNMISS operations and the deployment of the Regional Protection Force. We have no doubt that such a deployment is in the best interests of the Government if it genuinely seeks peace in the country.

Mr. Kawamura (Japan): I would also like to thank Mr. Wane and His Excellency President Mogae for their comprehensive briefings, which have updated us on the situation in South Sudan.

Japan would like to express its deep concern over the situation on the ground, in particular regarding the Sudan People's Liberation Army's advance towards Pagak. It undercuts the unilateral ceasefire declared by President Kiir and contradicts his claim on Independence Day that war is not an option. We call for restraint from both the Government and the opposition. It is also worrying that residents and aid workers are again evacuating from Upper Nile state due to the advance on Pagak. An effective use of the humanitarian high-level oversight committee mechanism is urged in order to enhance humanitarian access.

Japan is encouraged that the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) is currently working with the African Union, the United Nations and the international community to revitalize the 2015 Agreement by engaging with previously excluded groups. The Government of South Sudan is also preparing for an upcoming IGAD ministerial meeting for that same purpose. The Council should unite in urging all parties to constructively engage in the process so that, based on those collective efforts, the revitalization forum, slated for September, will yield positive results.

The recently launched national dialogue is equally important. We commend the work of the National Dialogue Steering Committee, especially its efforts to reach out to parties outside of South Sudan, as well as to grass-roots organizations in the country. Dialogue at the national level requires grass-roots trust-building and reconciliation activities at the local level. Japan is working closely with the United Nations Development Programme in connection with local efforts to enhance transparency and credibility so as to ensure genuinely inclusive national dialogue.

The national dialogue also requires an environment conducive to its ends, including through an immediate cessation of hostilities and the release of political prisoners. Japan's Ambassador in Juba has also emphasized those points to President Kiir directly, First Vice President Taban Deng Gai and the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Japan renews its call on all parties to stop fighting.

Lastly, with regard to the deployment of the Regional Protection Force, we look forward to an expeditious completion of its deployment, including through the prompt resolution of land-allocation issues and accelerated administrative processes. Further cooperation among troop-contributing countries, the Secretariat and the Government of South Sudan is important for that purpose.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I shall now make a statement in my national capacity as the representative of China.

China thanks Assistant Secretary-General Wane and Chairperson Mogae for their respective briefings.

Recently, thanks to the joint effort of the South Sudanese Government and the relevant parties, progress has been made in the country's political process. At the same time, however, the overall situation in the country remains complex and serious. It is facing serious challenges in the political, security, economic and humanitarian areas.

A political solution is the only way out of the current situation. To achieve that requires, on the one hand, stepped-up efforts on the part of the Government and the people of South Sudan, and, on the other, increased support from the international community. There has to be synergy on both fronts. A settlement must be based on the actual conditions of the country. It must tackle the root causes of the situation and should aim at broad support for a settlement.

First, priority should be given to speeding up the political process in the country and maintaining its stability. The South Sudanese Government has made commendable efforts to maintain internal peace and stability. President Kiir formally launched the national dialogue in May and announced a unilateral ceasefire, thereby establishing favourable conditions for facilitating the political process.

At present, the South Sudanese Government has reached an agreement with some of the opposition groups, for which China expresses its appreciation. China hopes that the international community will continue to fully support the leading role that the South Sudanese Government has assumed in addressing internal matters; strengthen its communication and coordination with the Government; and, at the same time, continue to enhance its engagement with the parties concerned and urge them to abandon the military option and return to the political track. At the same time, it is important to enhance the inclusiveness of the national dialogue and resolve their differences through dialogue and negotiations so as to enhance mutual trust.

Secondly, it is important to continue to support the leading role of regional and subregional organizations in carrying out their good offices. Regional organizations, including the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), have brought to bear their unique advantages and have intensified their good offices. Recently, IGAD held a special summit and a meeting of the Council of Ministers of South Sudan during which they had constructive discussions on how to facilitate the implementation of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan, and came up with ideas and proposals. China expresses its appreciation in that regard. China welcome's IGAD's holding of the high-level revitalization forum and hopes that regional organizations will continue to strengthen exchanges, communication and coordination with the Government, send out a unified message to the outside world, and work in synergy towards a political solution.

Thirdly, it is necessary to enhance humanitarian and economic assistance to South Sudan. As a result of a protracted conflict, South Sudan's social and economic foundations have been seriously damaged, and economic development has been beset by difficulties as a result of a long and protracted drought and other extreme weather conditions. The country is now facing the serious risk of famine. The international community should enhance the targeted and coordinated nature of its assistance, with priorities given to and focus on areas involving critical infrastructure, such as agriculture, irrigation and roads, so as to improve the conditions for economic and social development as soon as possible and raise the living standard of the local people to promote a national reconstruction so as to gradually resolve the root causes of the current conflict.

China commends the efforts of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) in discharging its mandate and for the important role that it has played in maintaining peace and stability in South Sudan. We hope that the Secretariat and UNMISS will strengthen their communication with the South Sudanese Government, properly resolve issues related to their cooperation and enhance the functionality and effectiveness of UNMISS so as to better respond to complex situations.

The Chinese Government has all along supported the peace process in South Sudan and provided assistance to the country, within its ability, through bilateral and multilateral channels. Several days ago, through the World Food Programme, China provided food assistance totalling $5 million to South Sudan, and through bilateral channels, China has provided food assistance totalling 8,750 tons and a total of ¥5 million worth of anti-malaria medicine so as to help the South Sudanese people respond to famine and that disease.

Recently, China dispatched more than 1,000 peacekeepers to South Sudan. Three hundred and thirty-one rank and file members of the Chinese engineering battalion and of the medical teams deployed in South Sudan were awarded the United Nations Peace Medal of Honour. China will continue to play a constructive role to help the country achieve durable peace and stability and sustainable development.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I now give the floor to Mr. Mogae to respond to comments and questions raised.

Mr. Mogae: As I did not understand the question asked by the representative of Senegal, perhaps he could repeat it.

Mr. Seck (Senegal): Members of the Security Council asked what, in your opinion, the Council should do now when everyone agrees that the region and the subregion, with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the African Union and the

United Nations, which is the universal body, must align their approach to help South Sudan get out of this very difficult crisis. We asked our question with ourselves in mind because we will be conducting consultations in a few moments. As we are about to embark upon consultations, the President thought that you might have some thoughts pertaining to my question.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): Mr. Mogae, can you clarify this point?

Mr. Mogae: If it is a question of asking what my wishes are, I wish that the United Nations, the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) would speak with one voice. That is what I want them to do. At present, their approaches are not quite the same, and the South Sudanese will continue to take advantage of differences in approach. Also, I think that the authorities — the African Union, IGAD and the United Nations — could maybe warn the South Sudanese much more firmly that these entities mean what they say.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of South Sudan.

Mr. Malwal (South Sudan): I am pleased and honoured to address the Security Council under your presidency, Sir. Allow me to begin by congratulating you and your delegation on assuming the presidency of the Council during the month of July and for your sound management of the Council this month. I would like to assure you of the full support and cooperation of my delegation in your endeavours for the few days left of your presidency.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. El-Ghassim Wane, and former President Festus Mogae, the Chairperson of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission, who is joining us from Juba.

I would like to reiterate the Government of National Unity's commitment to the deployment of the Regional Protection Force. We are happy to report that there have been positive developments with regard to the deployment of the Regional Protection Force, with some of the units and contingent's equipment already in Juba. Moreover, we are happy to inform the Council that on 18 July, just two days ago, the Government of National Unity made welcome progress on the proposed one-stop shop by appointing the national staff. The one-stop shop, as Council members well know, is intended to resolve impediments to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) operations, including facilitating equipment and supply clearances. The Government of National Unity has the political will and desire to continue to work closely with UNMISS and the humanitarian actors to address any pending issues.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the humanitarian organizations for their large-scale and sustained mobilizations since the onset of the crisis, and for their continued commitment to working with the South Sudanese people under the challenges they face. Despite the lifting of the famine alert on South Sudan, signifying an improvement in food security, the humanitarian situation continues to be dire. We continue to urge the friends of South Sudan and the international community to honour the pledges they made so as to meet the humanitarian gap being faced by various humanitarian organizations.

As reported in last month's briefing (see S/PV.7982), the national dialogue has started its work and is progressing well. It is imperative to report here that the co-Chairs of the Steering Committee have begun their efforts to reach out to the other stakeholders who are in and out of South Sudan in an effort to bring them on board to the national dialogue initiative. One of the co-Chairs of the Steering Committee led the delegation to South African to meet with the Mr. Riek Machar, who, unfortunately, declined to give him and his delegation an audience. That is indeed unfortunate as the national dialogue is intended to be a forum for the people of South Sudan to air their views and grievances, including Mr. Riek Machar's.

The Government therefore urges Mr. Riek Machar and other armed opposition groups to reconsider their positions regarding the national dialogue. The national dialogue can be inclusive only with their participation, but its success does not depend on their participation. So it would be prudent if they put aside their personal bitterness and embraced initiatives that seek to bring about a lasting peaceful solution to the people of South Sudan.

In conclusion, the Transitional Government of National Unity continues to be grateful for the role being played by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the African Union, the United Nations and the international community at large in trying to find lasting peace, stability and prosperity for

South Sudan. The Government of the Republic of South Sudan agrees with the international community that this can be achieved only through a political process that is embraced and accepted by the South Sudanese people. It is in that spirit that the Transitional Government of National Unity accepted the recent IGAD Summit resolution to hold a high-level discussion with the aim of revitalizing the implementation of the peace agreement in South Sudan. As a result of the mentioned resolution, we are happy to note that the IGAD Ministers of Foreign Affairs will meet in Juba in the next few days and we would like to wish them a successful deliberation.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.8009

Security Council

Seventy-second year

Provisional

8009th meeting
Monday, 24 July 2017, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Liu Jieyi	(China)
Members:	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Mr. Inchauste Jordán
	Egypt	Mr. Kandeel
	Ethiopia	Mr. Alemu
	France	Mr. Michon
	Italy	Mr. Biagini
	Japan	Mr. Akahori
	Kazakhstan	Mr. Umarov
	Russian Federation	Mr. Ilichev
	Senegal	Mr. Seck
	Sweden	Mr. Skau
	Ukraine	Mr. Yelchenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Rycroft
	United States of America	Ms. Sison
	Uruguay	Mr. Bermúdez

Agenda

Peace consolidation in West Africa

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (S/2017/563)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. *Corrections* should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

17-22641 (E)

Accessible document Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Peace consolidation in West Africa

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (S/2017/563)

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The Council has before it the text of a statement by the President on behalf of the Council on the subject of today's meeting. I thank the Council members for their valuable contributions to this statement.

In accordance with the understanding reached among the members of the Council, I shall take it that the members of the Security Council agree to the statement, which will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2017/10.

The meeting rose at 10.05 a.m.